Daily Report

Near East & South Asia

FBIS-NES-94-052
Thursday
17 March 1994

Daily Report
Near East & South Asia

FBIS-NES-94-052 *17 March 1994*

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Clarification of U.S. Stance on Jerusalem Requested

PM1603160094 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 16 Mar 94 p3

[Unattributed report: "After Statements Attributed to Clinton, Arab Delegations Request Clarification on Status of Jerusalem"]

[Text] Cairo, AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT—In a new development related to the future of the Middle East peace process, the Arab parties concerned, the parties taking part in the negotiations, have sent an urgent memorandum to the U.S. Administration requesting official clarification regarding President Clinton's statement on Jerusalem in which he regarded both parts of the city as Israel's capital. The memorandum asked about the significance of that statement which ran contrary to a number of basic principles in the peace negotiations, in particular denoting a clear change in the U.S. line regarding the basis on which the Madrid peace conference was held, and which also ran contrary to the clear provisions of the UN Security Council resolutions, especially Resolutions 242 and 338 which stipulate that Israel should fully withdraw from all the Arab territories occupied in 1967 including Jerusalem.

Informed Arab and Palestinian sources in Cairo have stated that Washington's position on occupied Jerusalem requires a reconsideration of the Arab positions on the peace negotiations with a need for clear guarantees in this connection.

The sources said that the current intensive consultations with the PLO are not expected to yield clear results regarding resumption of the negotiations with Israel unless the issue of Jerusalem is resolved and guarantees are given that the issue of Jerusalem will still be on the agenda of the negotiations. The sources added that, in these consultations, the PLO declared its rejection of any change in the status of Jerusalem, emphasizing that the issue should be included in the provisions of the new [draft] agreement before the resumption of negotiations with Israel.

Inter-Arab Affairs

League Chief Receives Qaddumi Message, Envoy Kamal

NC1703122094 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1143 GMT 17 Mar 94

[Text] Cairo, 17 Mar (MENA)—Arab League Secretary General Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid today received a written message from Faruq Qaddumi, the head of the PLO's Political Department. The message concerns the latest developments in the talks with Israel in light of Arab moves to ensure security for the Palestinians in the occupied territories, disarm the settlers, and obtain a Security Council resolution condemning the Israeli massacre at the al-Ibrahimi Mosque. This can be achieved by providing international protection and by tangible measures by the Israelis to ensure security for the Palestinians.

Sa'id Kamal, the Palestinian ambassador in Cairo, noted that he and Dr. 'Abd-al-Majid discussed U.S. President Bill Clinton's recent remarks about the status of Jerusalem. He noted that the Arab League secretary general promised to take the necessary measures to back the Palestinian side should the talks with Israel resume, especially with regard to the call for disbanding the settlements and not recognizing Israel's measures on Jerusalem.

Kamal added that he briefed Dr. 'Abd-al-Majid on the recent contacts held between PLO officials and Arab and international officials, including the foreign ministers of Egypt, Syria, and Lebanon. He pointed out that these contacts dealt with the future of the Middle East peace process following the massacre. He noted that a meeting among officials from the cordon states [Syria, Lebanon, Jordan, and Egypt and the PLO] is likely to be held on the sidelines of the Arab League ministerial meeting in Cairo on 26 March.

Egypt Puts Quotas on Maghreb Pilgrims

LD1703110694 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 0600 GMT 17 Mar 94

[Text] The Egyptian authorities have decided that they will allow only 2,000 Algerian pilgrims to cross their territory by land this year on their way to the holy places. Last year, nearly 24,000 pilgrims travelled by road to perform the annual pilgrimage.

According to information available to us, the Egyptian authorities have demanded that these Algerian pilgrims travel on coaches laid on by tourist agencies and not by private transport, as has been the practice so far. This decision, which applies to all nationals from the Arab Maghreb, is believed to be due to security considerations.

Islamic Affairs

Political Islam Review: AL-SHA'B 11 Mar

NC1703160194

[Editorial Report] The following review of the 11 March issue of Cairo AL-SHA'B summarizes articles that are Islamic in nature.

CONTENTS:

1. Prayers and Demonstrations
2. Barukh Goldstein Is Alive
3. Lawyers Association Holds Conference
4. Writer Denounces Hebron Killings
5. SLP Leader Shukri Urges Arab, Islamic Unity
6. SLP Official Deplores Muslims' Situation
7. Writer Criticizes Mubarak's Speech on Muslims

PRAYERS AND DEMONSTRATIONS

The 11 March issue of AL-SHA'B continues to report Egyptian people's reaction to and protests against the Hebron killings. It devotes pages 1-4 and 7 to lengthy stories of demonstrations and rallies denouncing the Hebron incident, citing speeches by Socialist Labor Party [SLP] leader Ibrahim Shukri and others. Speakers assail Israelis and Americans, denounce the United Nations, call for jihad, and urge severing ties with Israel, expelling the Israeli ambassador in Egypt, and boycotting Israeli goods.

An approximately 600-word report on pages 1 and 7 says that Egyptian mosques on the night of the Koran revelation were filled with the worshipers' "imprecations" against the murderer Jews and their supporters; against the murderers of Muslims, the Serbs and Croats; and against "oppressive rulers who failed to support the Muslims or who are involved in the killing of Muslims."

The report adds that the largest gathering took place in 'Amr Bin-al-'Ass Mosque, which was packed with over 3,000 worshipers who repeated Koran reader Shaykh Muhammad Jibril's prayers that God might destroy and eliminate the Jews, shake the earth under the Serbs and Croats, and support the mujahidin in Palestine and Bosnia-Herzegovina. Angry slogans of "No God but God," "The Jews are the enemies of God," "Muhammad's army will return," and "Jihad is our course and dying in the cause of God is our wish" were chanted after the prayers. The worshipers urged the rulers to expel the Zionist ambassador from Cairo, recall the Egyptian ambassador from Tel Aviv, and to stop the "criminal" acts of normalization with Israel and the "alleged" peace process.

In an approximately 300-word report on page 1, Mahmud Bakri says trade unions, nationalist forces, and Egyptian parties in Dumyat held a huge conference, denouncing the "Zionist massacre of our fellow worshipers in the al-Ibrahimi Mosque in Hebron." The report says the conference affirmed that the Arabs' and Muslims' right will not be recovered as long as we continue neglecting our rights, disregarding God's shari'ah, and silent about "those impotent, treacherous rulers." The conference called for opening the door to jihad for the Muslim youths to enable them to join their brother mujahidin in Palestine and in all Islamic countries. At the end of the conference, the report says, the youths of Dumyat burned the Israeli flag amid slogans calling for jihad and revenge against "those killers."

An approximately 500-word report by Nasir Faruq on pages 1 and 7 says a wave of anger prevailed after the Egyptian students began their "blessed uprising" in protest against the Zionist massacre in al-Ibrahimi Mosque. After prayers, worshipers in northern Cairo emerged chanting slogans against "the enemies of Islam, the Americans and Jews, and demanding revenge against the Zionist enemies of God." The report provides detailed accounts of similar protests in other places. The SLP organized a mass rally at the party headquarters in Tanta to denounce the massacre. University students and lawyers also staged demonstrations, calling for severing ties with Israel and staging jihad against the Zionist enemy.

Another 320-word report on pages 1 and 7 indicates that the General Assembly of the Engineers Union urged the Egyptian Government to close the Israeli Embassy in Cairo, recall the Egyptian ambassador from Tel Aviv, and halt all forms of dealings with the Zionist enemy. It also called on Arab governments to withdraw the delegations taking part in the "lie" of the peace talks, provide assistance to the Palestinian intifadah, and launch jihad to "liberate Palestine."

An approximately 450-word report by Layla 'Abd-al-Hamid on pages 1 and 7 says the SLP's Women's Secretariat organized a seminar in response to the al-Ibrahimi Mosque massacre. The seminar called for severing relations with Israel, expelling the Israeli ambassador from Egypt, reviving the common Arab market, halting talks with Israel, and lifting the blockade against the Iraqi people. A speaker, Asmahan Shukri, noted the frightening Arab and Islamic divisions and the United States' "domination" of the Islamic world. She says: "The United States is directly responsible for killing and displacing the Muslims in Bosnia, Iraq, Somalia, India, and Kashmir."

In an approximately 250-word report on pages 1 and 7 on the state authorities' "campaign of arrests" against SLP members in which 26 members have been arrested to far, the paper says the Interior Ministry escalated its campaign and arrested four others. They include Muhammad Muhammad al-Sunbati and his wife, who, the paper says, was arrested on charges of teaching the town's children the Koran, starting a Koran school, disseminating ideas of extremism among the children in preparation for overthrowing the regime. The report also says that Mrs. Mazaj 'Abd-al-'Aziz, the wife of Muhammad al-Sunbati, was also accused of performing prayers, leading women in mosques, and preaching to them. The report adds that only Mrs. Mazaj has been released but that the other four party members remain in detention.

BARUKH GOLDSTEIN IS ALIVE

An approximately 140-word report on page one of AL-SHA'B's 11 March issue by Mahmud Babri claims that Barukh Goldstein, the Israeli who killed worshipers in a Hebron mosque, is still alive.

The author of the report says: "Important information obtained by AL-SHA'B affirm that Barukh Goldstein, murderer of the worshipers in the holy al-Ibrahimi Mosque, is still alive and that he has been transferred to a safe Zionist settlement in the wake of the heinous carnage." The information, the report says, indicated that the buried body belonged to another Jewish settler who was killed near the site of the massacre. The report adds: "The information revealed the details of the

Zionist plan to carry out the massacre, which was directly supervised by Zionist Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin and Israeli Army Chief of Staff Ehud Baraq."

The author says that the al-Ibrahimi Mosque massacre was carried out as a substitute for another massacre designed to be carried out in al-Aqsa Mosque in Jerusalem during the 'Id al-Fitr prayers, planned by Israeli leaders and a Jewish woman settler, Theresa, the mastermind of the massacre. The report indicates that seven Zionists who are members of the Kakh Movement participated in the massacre.

LAWYERS ASSOCIATION HOLDS CONFERENCE

An approximately 600-word report on pages 1 and 7 says that the Lawyers Association's Egyptian committee in support of the Palestinian people's jihad held a conference in protest against the Hebron massacre, in which many intellectuals, preachers, and "nationalist symbols" took part. Excited young men chanted Islamic slogans denouncing the massacre and the peace talks and demanding the launching of jihad to "liberate Palestine." The conference decided to send protest memoranda to all ambassadors in Egypt and to ask Arab rulers to hold an urgent summit and take firm resolutions against Israel.

In his speech, Mustafa Mashhur, Muslim Brotherhood's deputy general guide, said the Jews are the origin of terrorism, which began "when the Jews killed the prophets," and that the Jews harbor "deep hatred for Islam and Muslims." He called for raising young men on the spirit of jihad and keeping up this spirit in the "souls of the youths of Islamic awakening."

An Islamic preacher, Wajdi Ghunaym, charged that the Jews were behind the explosions that took place in Egypt and that they spread drugs and AIDS "in our country." He said the only Islamic solution for the Palestinian cause is jihad and urged police officers and men to point their guns at the Jews, not at the demonstrators who protested the massacre.

Lawyer Ahmad Rabi' al-Ghazali delivered a speech on behalf of the young lawyers, in which he stressed that "the Islamic creed is the sound and established basis which we should not abandon in confronting the Jews and that it is the spiritual weapon that must not be surrendered." He called for unity among all the nation's Muslims and Christians to "fight the Jews who are the enemies of all religions and races."

Another Islamic preacher, Dr. 'Umar 'Abd-al-Kafi, said the Islamic soil is fertile and good to produce young men able to lead their nation. He called for overcoming differences among Islamic factions and said: "Everyone must know that the enemies of Islam, led by the Jews, are working day and night to hit us."

The committee moderator Ahmad Sayf-al-Islam Hasan al-Banna said the Hebron massacre is a message for the Muslims to wake up and revert to Islam because "their nations are in danger."

WRITER DENOUNCES HEBRON KILLINGS

An approximately 500-word article by Mahmud Fayid on page 2 denounces the Hebron killings and calls for ending the negotiations. The writer says this was not the first crime, nor will it be the last because both "the Bible and the Koran say that the Jews are the killers of prophets and are traitors." He adds that "they" are holding negotiations not to return the usurped rights but are negotiating with us to perpetuate the occupation. He notes that the remedy lies in God's shari'ah in raising the nation on jihad against the enemy and that jihad, as in the case of fasting, is a duty and both commandments urge the Muslim not to limit his concern and interest to worldly pleasure but to aspire to the "bliss of the world hereafter." At one point he says: This crime should not drive us to despair. We must realize that it is an enlightenment from God for us to be aware of the nature of the Jews and their treachery so that we may rectify our situation, stop being careless, and stop living in illusions."

SLP LEADER SHUKRI URGES ARAB, ISLAMIC UNITY

On page 4, AL-SHA'B files an approximately 850-word report on SLP leader Ibrahim Shukri's speeches in Asyut and al-Minya Governorates about the Hebron killings and other topics.

Denouncing the Hebron incident, Shukri addresses those who are in line with the United States and Israel, asking them: "What do you say today about the United States, which prevents the Security Council from passing a resolution to protect the unarmed Palestinians from the evils of the Jewish occupier?" He says: "What do you say about the United States' silence over all forms of oppression, persecution, and horrors and liquidation suffered by the Palestinian people? O Gulf Arabs, what kind of normalization and peace are you seeking now that you have given the control over your economic and political affairs to the U.S. hegemony?"

At one point, he says that the United States and Zionism have rearranged their priorities after the collapse of communism and that the Arab and Islamic nations topped their "list of hostility." He calls for rebuilding the Arab and Islamic fold to protect the nation's interests in accordance with "God's injunction."

SLP OFFICIALS DEPLORE MUSLIMS' SITUATION

Page 4 features an approximately 750-word report on an SLP seminar in which participants discuss the Muslims' "weak" situation, note "rulers' inaction," and demand the expulsion of the Israeli ambassador. SLP official 'Abd-al-Hamid Barakat says the Islamic nation has

become "an easy prey for its enemies who kill the nation's sons, rape its women, and violate their rights amid the silence of everyone, "the silence of fear and cowardice."

Preacher Mustafa Hammad, SLP branch member in al-Minya Governorate, calls for caution against whom he describes "Zionist elements" in Egypt who are fighting against God's religion and urges adherence to the teachings of religion.

Another speaker, Islamic preacher 'Abdallah al-Samawi says the young men spend their time watching television that perverts them and destroys religion and morals. He notes: "Thus, some of the criminal Egyptian media contribute to achieving the aims of the Jews, who regard the neighboring nations as donkeys to be ridden by God's chosen people." Our misled youths spend hours watching television, which destroys religion and morals. The television could have been a teacher and enlightener but it is controlled by people who use it to wreck and destroy our youths."

WRITER CRITICIZES MUBARAK'S SPEECH ON MUSLIMS

In an approximately 2,900-word article on page 5 of AL-SHA'B's 11 March edition, writer 'Adil Husayn criticizes Israeli Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres' recent book. After reviewing the book, the writer criticizes President Mubarak's recent speech which, in his view, focused on the weak points of the Muslims. The writer says that the speech gave the impression that all evils in today's world emanate from the Muslims. Husayn adds that Islam is a religion of moderation and Islamic civilization has taught all races of the earth the meaning of tolerance but that tolerance for Muslims does not mean surrender and ignorance.

Palestinian Affairs

'Arafat Receives Russian, Egyptian Envoys

LD1603181494 Algiers Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1702 GMT 16 Mar 94

[Excerpts] The brother president leader Abu-'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat] last night received the special envoy of Russian President Boris Yeltsin, who delivered to him a message from the Russian leadership on the results of the Vladivostok meeting that was held on Monday between Andrey Kozyrev, Russian foreign affairs minister, and Warren Christopher, U.S. secretary of state.

During the meeting, the recent developments and contacts currently under way at the UN Security Council for issuing a resolution on the massacre in the holy al-Ibrahimi Mosque in Hebron in the occupied West Bank were reviewed. [passage omitted]

The brother president leader Abu-'Ammar also received yesterday afternoon Ibrahim 'Allam, ambassador of the Arab Republic of Egypt in Tunis.

The Egyptian ambassador delivered to brother Abu-'Ammar a message from the Egyptian leadership on the recent developments of the peace process in the Middle East and the consultations and contacts currently under way at the different levels.

'Arafat Calls for Elections 'Within 3 Months'

JN1603200794 Sanaa Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1800 GMT 16 Mar 94

[Text] Brother Abu-'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat], president of the state of Palestine and chairman of the PLO Executive Committee, has stressed the need to hold elections in the occupied territories within three months, adding that this depends on Israel's approval.

In a statement to DPA broadcast yesterday, President Abu-'Ammar urged the Security Council to quickly adopt a resolution condemning the massacre, which claimed the lives of a number of Palestinian worshipers in the al-Ibrahimi Mosque in the occupied West Bank city of Hebron.

Brother Abu-'Ammar said providing security for the frightened and infuriated sons of the homeland in the occupied territories is more important than other issues. Brother President Abu-'Ammar described Israel's refusal to renegotiate the already signed agreements as an attempt to gain time. He added that the Israelis are playing tactical games and are not willing to provide anything tangible.

'Arafat Sends Message to Clinton on Peace Process

NC1603153094 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1430 GMT 16 Mar 94

[Text] Tunis, 16 Mar (MENA)—Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat has asked U.S. President Bill Clinton to exert efforts and use his influence to save the peace process, which has been deadlocked since the al-Ibrahimi Mosque massacre in Hebron in the middle of the month of Ramadan. The request came in a message that 'Arafat sent to Clinton.

The Palestinian news agency said today the message dealt with the difficulties blocking a Security Council resolution denouncing the massacre and providing international protection for the Palestinian people in the occupied territories and their holy places.

The message also dealt with Israeli maneuvers and lies aimed at blocking the implementation of the Declaration of Principles and the serious situation in the occupied land.

'Arafat Discusses Hebron Massacre, Oslo Agreement

JN1703110094 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 17 Mar 94 pp 1, 20

[Interview with PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat by Hamidah Na'na' in Tunis, published in cooperation with Paris-based AL-FAJR; date not given]

[Text] [Na'na'] When you agreed to the Gaza-Jericho First agreement, most observers viewed your stand as a historical gamble. This was confirmed in time with the Hebron massacre, which revealed that the issue of settlements, which under the Oslo agreement had been postponed, should have been listed as a priority issue on the agenda. The issue of Jerusalem also emerges as a real obstacle in the UN deliberations. How do you assess the status of the Palestinian cause after what happened?

['Arafat] The Hebron massacre has confirmed that they do not want to implement what they agreed to in Oslo. This was clear when Rabin said that there are no sacrosanct deadlines. This is in addition to the influence the Israeli Army has on the political leadership. The military does not want to implement the Oslo agreement or the Gaza-Jericho First agreement as you call it. The Gaza-Jericho First agreement is part of the agreement and the agreement is an integrated one comprising a preliminary stage to be followed by a final one, and it was agreed to call it the Gaza-Jericho agreement because the Israelis are supposed to withdraw from Gaza and Jericho first. The Oslo agreement covers all the Palestinian territories that were occupied in 1967.

Here, I would like to clearly point out that the Hebron massacre was not a massacre against a group of Palestinians that was committed by a Zionist settler. The Hebron massacre is a scheme in which Israeli Army units participated. This clearly resembles what our brother Algerians faced from the French Secret Army Organization [OAS] which sought to obstruct the French-Algerian agreements. As Palestinians, we now face the same situation in the occupied territories. This only shows that the extremist Zionist mentality views the Palestinian Arab presence in the occupied territories as a very serious issue. From this premise, the withdrawal of the settlers from Hebron is essential. We have reached the conclusion that Israel does not want to implement the Oslo agreement. It is not the Gaza-Jericho First agreement as you call it because the Gaza-Jericho agreement is part of a more comprehensive agreement made up of two stages; a preliminary one to be followed by a final one. First, they are supposed to withdraw from Gaza and Jericho and then from all of the occupied Palestinian territories that were occupied in 1967.

[Na'na'] You referred in previous statements to the involvement of Israeli military units in the Hebron massacre. Do you mean that there are forces within the Israeli Army that do not agree with the behavior of the political leadership and that they seek to undermine this leadership's Oslo commitments?

['Arafat] Yes, the Hebron massacre is not an individual action, nor an action carried out by a psychopath, as the Israelis like to s . The Hebron massacre is part of an ongoing scheme in which Israeli Army units participate. This situation is exactly like the one our Algerian brothers had faced at the hands of the OAS prior to Algeria's independence. They sought to obstruct the French-Algerian agreements, the Evian talks, and General de Gaulle's commitments. The Palestinian people in the occupied territories are now experiencing the same situation. These forces have no interest in the establishment of peace, what interests them is to continue establishing greater Israel on Palestinian land and the land of other Arab countries. That's why we should be very alert about the developments.

[Na'na'] Was the issue of settlements and the threat they pose to the peace process discussed in Oslo? Don't you think that this issue should have been a priority, the objective of which is to separate the settlers and the Palestinians in order to prevent any friction that would place mines in the road of the peace process?

['Arafat] The issue of settlements was discussed in Oslo and an agreement was reached on several points in this regard. The most important points are:

First, the building of new settlements is totally prohibited.

Second, the expansion of current settlements is totally prohibited.

Third, the confiscation of new territories is totally prohibited.

The final decision on the fate of the settlements was mentioned in the Oslo agreement. The issue of settlements will be discussed as soon as possible within a period of no more than two years. The formed committees are supposed to start work after an agreement is reached on the final stage. We formed a committee to discuss the issue of Jerusalem, a committee to discuss the issue of refugees, a committee to discuss the issue of evacuees, a committee to discuss the issue of settlements and settlers, and a committee to discuss the issue of borders.

[Na'na'] If the issues contained in the Oslo agreement are so clear, then how do you explain the U.S. stand at the UN Security Council, which now rejects discussing the Jerusalem issue or referring to it as part of the occupied territories, which has led to postponing the vote on the agreement many times?

['Arafat] The Security Council is currently discussing a resolution that condemns the Hebron massacre and calls on Israel to take measures, including the confiscation of settlers' weapons to prevent them from carrying out illegitimate acts. The text of the resolution will demand measures to protect Palestinians through an international presence in the occupied territories. Herein lies the differences between the United States and us. While

the United States talks about the presence of international observers in the Palestinian territories, we say that the agreement stipulates an international presence in Palestinian territories. We demand an immediate international presence in the Palestinian territories to protect our people and holy places at this difficult time.

(The telephone rang and the speaker on the other end was Dennis Ross. From the course of the conversation, it seemed that there was a new negotiable offer. I heard Mr. Yasir 'Arafat say to Ross: Wait for a couple of hours and I will come after I meet with my comrades in the Executive Committee.)

[Na'na'] It has been said that there is a new offer by the United States that seeks to expedite the process of withdrawal from Gaza and Jericho and expand the Jericho area in return for not discussing the issue of Jerusalem in the Security Council resolution, accepting civil observers instead of international emergency forces, and dismantling a number of settlements and evacuating about 500 settlers from Hebron. How true is this?

['Arafat] No. This was not what I just discussed with Dennis Ross. It is not currently an issue of Jericho's area, of expediting the withdrawal process, or dismantling the settlements. It is more serious than that. It is an issue of international protection for our people to make them feel safe and secure in light of this multilateral conspiracy, involving the settlers, members of the Israeli Army, and gangs which call themselves organizations such as "Kakh," "Kahane Hay," and other such racist organizations. These organizations are proven to be financed from New York, specifically Brooklyn, and are being fed with weapons, men, and money.

The Israeli settlers are carrying out joint patrols with the Israeli Army. This a violation of the Oslo agreement. The Israeli Government should bridle the settlers because the continuation of the current situation will destroy the peace process at its roots.

[Na'na'] Is it possible to conclude from what you are saying that you will not return to the negotiations unless effective international presence; that is, military protection, is provided for the civilians?

['Arafat] The most important thing to us now is to provide an international presence. This should take place through a resolution on which the Security Council votes so that it will be obligatory to its members and all parties concerned with the peace process. Russia and the United State—the cosponsors of the [Madrid] conference—are supposed to take measures to adopt a similar resolution.

[Na'na'] What form of international protection do you envisage?

['Arafat] A military one, of course. Otherwise, who will protect Palestinian civilians from the armed settlers? There are international forces in southern Lebanon, on the Golan, and in Sinai. Why is it so strange to have international forces in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip? It is true that I am not asking for guns and tanks. But I am asking for international forces that are capable of protecting the civilian inhabitants from attacks by the settlers and others.

[Na'na'] The Russians have returned in force to the international arena after the Hebron massacre and made several proposals, such as the need to convene a new international conference similar to the Madrid conference on the Middle East crisis. Do you believe the Russian proposals could be implemented?

['Arafat] We fully welcomed the Russian initiative. We have been in constant contact with Russia. I received many envoys and finally Foreign Minister Kozyrev.

[Na'na'] What about Arab coordination. Do you expect an Arab summit in reply to what has taken place?

['Arafat] I wish an Arab summit would convene. However, this requires intensive efforts. The Arab state of affairs is difficult and complicated. I hope that as Arab leaders we can overcome the Gulf crisis so that the new world order will not be established at our expense and that of our children.

[Na'na'] Within the framework of Arab coordination, have you and the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan reached an advanced stage of political and economic coordination?

['Arafat] Yes, we have made large strides in the field of coordination with the Jordanian brothers. We signed an economic agreement. We held meetings of the security committee and the refugees committee, and meetings of other committees on other levels. All this took place in implementation of what we and his Majesty King Husayn had agreed during my last visit to Jordan after signing the Cairo agreement when I handed King Husayn a copy of that agreement.

[Na'na'] After the massacre, French Defense Minister Francois Leotard visited Israel. Does this visit signal a change in the French stand? Do you not believe it would have been more appropriate for a defense minister of a country that is a friend of the Palestinians to have postponed his visit in the wake of the Hebron tragedy?

['Arafat] The French stand has not changed. In the United Nations, this becomes apparent through the president of the UN Security Council, the French representative. The French stand is good, solid, sympathetic, and forceful. We had hopes that such a visit would not take place at that time so that it might not be interpreted as France approving of the massacre and supporting the Israeli stand.

[Na'na'] President 'Arafat has been a hero in the eyes of his people. He has been a symbol, and a struggler. However, support for you in the occupied territories has been dwindling for some time. Of course, you notice from the pictures transmitted on television and the

information you receive that following the Hebron massacre, the people now oppose the Oslo agreement and the peace process, and that their support for you has greatly diminished.

['Arafat] I have said this more than once. Patience has its limits. Everyone, both far and near, should realize this. Our people welcomed the peace agreement. But, the Israeli maneuvers and Rabin's obstruction of the implementation of the agreement have made the peace process lose its credibility in the eyes of our people. I do understand the Palestinian people. The world at large should also excuse them if they lose their faith in peace. Our people suffered two massacres in 15 days. The first took place in the Ibrahimi Mosque by armed settlers in collusion with the Israeli Army. The second massacre was the one committed against our people in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip where dozens of martyrs fell, many were wounded, and more than 1,000 were arrested. It is true that they released 1,500 detainees of those whose prison terms had nearly ended, but they arrested 2,000 others.

This state of affairs that our Palestinian people has been experienced has led, among other things, to their dwindling support for the peace process.

Clinton Remarks on Jerusalem Spark Reaction

Qaddumi Offers Response

NC1703071094 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0615 GMT 17 Mar 94

[Text] Commenting on Israeli Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres' remarks that Israel accepts taking some measures in Hebron after the PLO agrees to return to the negotiations, Faruq Qaddumi, the head of the PLO Political Department, has stated that the Palestinian leadership does not trust promises by Israeli officials. Peres has already made many unfulfilled promises.

In a statement to AL-HAYAH [no date as heard], Qaddumi revealed that the Palestinian leadership has rejected an Israeli request to hold a meeting between Peres and 'Arafat in Washington.

Responding to Israeli press reports yesterday that U.S. President Bill Clinton wants to announce that Jerusalem is the capital of Israel, Qaddumi said: If this happens, we say the peace process is over. He added: If this is confirmed, we will withdraw from the negotiations, because Washington would be violating the basis on which these negotiations were started. Qaddumi said he expects things to drag on before the negotiations are resumed, because Israel is procrastinating, playing for time.

PNC Secretary: Remarks Raise 'Fears'

NC1603122194 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1124 GMT 16 Mar 94

[Text] Cairo, 16 Mar (MENA)—Palestine National Council [PNC] Secretary Muhammad Subayh has denounced U.S. President Clinton's recent remarks that Jerusalem is Israel's united capital.

In an exclusive statement to MENA, Subayh said that such remarks contradict every official position espoused by former U.S. Presidents and the U.S. commitment to the UN Security Council that holy Jerusalem is an occupied territory.

He added: The Palestinian people and all the peoples of the Islamic nation are astonished and denounce the U.S. President's remarks, which come on the heels of the al-Ibrahimi Mosque massacre. These remarks raise fears about U.S. credibility and commitment to the peace operation.

Subayh noted that these remarks show total bias toward Israel, violate international law and UN and Security Council resolutions, and provoke the feelings of faithful Muslims and Christians worldwide, who can never accept the Judaization of this holy city.

'Abbas, 'Ashrawi Criticize Statements

JN1603182994 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1705 GMT 16 Mar 94

[Text] Cairo, 16 Mar (INA)—Zuhdi al-Qudrah, PLO Executive Committee member, has described U.S. President Bill Clinton's recent statements on Jerusalem as blatant and unfair U.S. bias toward the Zionist entity, and an attempt to strike at the Palestine question and confiscate the Palestinian people's historic rights.

In a statement to an INA correspondent in Cairo, al-Qudrah said the PLO and the Arab people have received with extreme dissatisfaction Clinton's statements, which do not at all help the establishment of a just peace in the region.

He added that the Palestinian people do not trust the United States at all. He stressed that negotiations with the Zionist entity cannot resume under the absolute U.S. bias toward the Zionist entity and the UN Security Council's glaring and full submissiveness to the United States.

He stressed that the PLO cannot resume these negotiations unless a clear UN Security Council resolution condemning the Zionist massacre in Hebron is issued.

Meanwhile, in statements published here today, Mahmud 'Abbas, also known as Abu-Mazin [PLO Executive Committee member], criticized Clinton's statements. He said the United States should have unhesitatingly condemned the Zionist massacre and forced the Zionist entity to abide by international law.

Abu-Mazin rejected the U.S. President's statements on Jerusalem. He said these statements clearly show that as it provides the Zionist entity with support and protection, Washington obstructs international efforts to secure the issuance of an international resolution through the UN Security Council condemning the Hebron massacre.

In similar statements, Mrs. Hanan 'Ashrawi, former spokeswoman for the Palestinian negotiating delegation, said Washington has completely lost its credibility in the eyes of the Palestinian and Arab people in general. She stressed that Washington seeks to appease the Zionist entity through irresponsible statements or through the obstruction of any resolution condemning the al-Ibrahimi Mosque massacre.

In her statements, Hanan 'Ashrawi indicated that a feeling of violent and regrettable shock is prevailing in the occupied Arab territories as a result of the recent U.S. statements, which are absolutely unacceptable.

She said she believes the U.S. Administration is employing every means of pressure against the PLO and the Palestinian negotiators to push them to offer unilateral concessions. She called for reconsidering calculations and positions and avoiding contributing to the loss of the Palestine question, which is now experiencing its most delicate stages.

Efforts Under Way To Convene Arab Foreign Ministers

NC1603133394 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1250 GMT 16 Mar 94

[Text] Cairo, 16 Mar (MENA)—Muhammad Subayh, Palestine National Council secretary general, has confirmed that intensive consultations are under way to hold a meeting of the five Arab countries involved in the Middle East peace process—Egypt, Syria, Jordan, Palestine, and Lebanon—in Cairo as soon as possible on the foreign minister level.

He said the aim of this meeting is to coordinate stances on resuming the Arab-Israeli peace talks and discuss the effects of the al-Ibrahimi Mosque massacre on the peace process.

In exclusive statements to MENA, Subayh said that Egypt is making intensive diplomatic moves with the United States, the Palestinians, and the Israelis to find a way out of the deadlock that the Palestinian-Israeli negotiations reached following the massacre perpetrated by the settlers in the al-Ibrahimi Mosque.

He noted that Egypt's efforts aim to convince Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin to show more flexibility toward the fair Palestinian demands to resume the peace negotiations. He noted that the Palestinian demands focus on the need to provide international protection for the Palestinian people, reduce the number of settlements, disarm the settlers, and release the Palestinian detainees.

Sha'th on U.S. Pledges of Protection, Resolution

PM1603124494 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 16 Mar 94 p 6

[Report by Ashraf al-Faqiyy: "Sha'th Tells AL-HAYAH: Palestinians Will Not Pay the Price for the al-Ibrahimi Mosque Massacre"]

[Text] Cairo—Dr. Nabil Sha'th, political adviser to Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat, has said that the United States has not implemented the pledges it made during his visit to Washington at the beginning of the month as regards providing protection for the Palestinian people in the occupied territories.

In a statement to AL-HAYAH Sha'th pointed out that delaying the adoption of a Security Council resolution on the al-Ibrahimi Mosque massacre "has created a negative atmosphere." He said that "it is unimaginable that the Palestinians should pay the price for the Israeli crime."

He added that the U.S. Administration's insistence on ignoring the Jerusalem issue and delaying the Security Council resolution is considered a negative change in the U.S. Administration's position.

He wondered: "How can the Americans link tackling the massacre to excluding Jerusalem from a resolution representing international legitimacy?"

He pointed out that the Palestinians have not taken any decision to pull out of the negotiation process...and that the main issue is ways of providing protection for the Palestinian people in the occupied territories.

He described the measures taken by the Israeli Government regarding the Hebron massacre as insufficient. He said: "The decision to classify Kakh and Kahana Hay as terrorist organizations has not been complied with." Indicative of this, he said, is that action has been confined to arresting a few people and confiscating 80 rifles, 13 pistols, and two bullets. He pointed out that the instructions the Israeli Army had received were not to fire on settlers.

He added: "The Palestinian leadership is demanding that protection be provided, the Palestinian position has not changed, and we will not go to the negotiations before minimum Palestinian demands are met and practical measures are taken in this connection."

Sha'th said that numerous scenarios are being discussed in Tunis for the resumption of the peace negotiations. He pointed out in this context that the contacts made recently in Tunis have produced no agreement. The Palestinian leadership is waiting to see what practical measures Israel can take after the Security Council adopts a resolution on the massacre.

Sha'th Meets With Musa on Peace Talks, UN Resolution

NC1503211794 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1940 GMT 15 Mar 94

[Text] Cairo, 15 Mar (MENA)—Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa met tonight with Dr. Nabil Sha'th, head of the Palestinian delegation to the peace talks, and Zuhdi al-Qidrah, Fatah Movement's representative in Cairo.

Dr. Sha'th described the meeting as fruitful and useful. The meeting, he added, involved discussion of Palestinian developments following the Hebron massacre, the current talks in Tunisia, Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin's visit to the United States, ways to break the current deadlock, and security guarantees for the Palestinian people.

Dr. Sha'th added that he conveyed a message from President 'Arafat to Foreign Minister Musa. President 'Arafat and Foreign Minister Musa also talked on the telephone during the meeting, Dr. Sha'th remarked.

Concerning the resumption of the peace negotiations, Dr. Sha'th said: Certainly there will be no return to negotiations before the UN Security Council passes a resolution. The significance of such a resolution is not only that it would state the opinion of international legitimacy, but that the cosponsors of the peace conference, including the United States, would be committed to its implementation. Such a resolution would be an expression of international resolve in the form of a legal instrument, whose implementation should provide the Palestinian people with better protection, Sha'th said.

The Palestinians are interested in returning to the negotiations, Sha'th said, but on the condition that their demands for security measures are met. He added: Time is not an issue. Had the UN Security Council passed the resolution last Friday, as the understanding was, and had Israel introduced the required, logical, just, convincing, and justified measures last week, we would have resumed the negotiations today.

Dr. Sha'th said: We want measures and we want them implemented so that we may be able to go back to the negotiating table. Israel took such practical measures as banning settlers from carrying firearms at al-Aqsa Mosque, the Wailing Wall, and the al-Ibrahimi Mosque and outlawing terrorist organizations, but these measures are inadequate because they fail to meet the necessary security requirements, Sha'th declared.

Musa, Palestinian Envoy on UN Meeting on Massacre

NC1503160894 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 1500 GMT 15 Mar 94

[Text] Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa has said that Egypt is holding consultations with the parties concerned with the Middle East peace process as well as with UN Security Council members. The subject of the consultations is the holding of a Security Council session to discuss the attack against worshipers at the al-Ibrahimi Mosque and the passing of a resolution condemning the massacre.

Palestinian Ambassador to Cairo Sa'id Kamal said that Minister 'Amr Musa today gave him an urgent message for Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat concerning the consultations Egypt is holding on a UN Security Council meeting to denounce the massacre.

The Palestinian envoy said that the Palestinians are unwavering in their call for the condemnation of the atrocity committed by the settlers against the Palestinian people and for international protection of the Palestinian people living in the occupied territories. Ambassador Kamal said that Palestinian and Egyptian consultations are continuing to achieve this end.

Qaddumi Views Hebron Massacre, Oslo Accord

JN1603114494 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 16 Mar 94 p 20

[Interview with Faruq Qaddumi, head of the PLO Political Department, by Hamidah Na'na' in Tunis—date not given]

[Text] [Na'na'] Following the Hebron massacre, the PLO set a host of conditions for the resumption of negotiations. What are these conditions? Are they sufficient to reassure the Palestinian people in the territories about their security and restore their confidence in the possibility of attaining peace?

[Qaddumi] Following the Hebron al-Ibrahimi Mosque massacre, which was perpetrated by the Israeli settlers, it has become essential that protection be provided for our people in the occupied territories. The issue of settlements has become an urgent topic that should be discussed today and not tomorrow, that is, not at the end of the transitional period. Secure areas in Jerusalem, Hebron, and Bethlehem, which are the friction areas, should have been created. Israel should have adopted firm measures to disarm the settlers. We wonder why the Israeli Army, which is occupying the Palestinian territories, is allowing those settlers to carry weapons if it is not for the sake of attacking the Palestinians? It is quite possible to disarm them. The Security Council should also issue a resolution defining a mechanism according to which the citizens can be protected against the settlers' attacks.

Israel should expedite its withdrawal from Gaza and Jericho first. Postponing withdrawal on the pretext of Israeli security is a big lie. They should have withdrawn on the fixed date. The international community, which condemned this ugly massacre, should support the Palestinian people and protect our people in the occupied territories. The [Madrid] conference co-sponsors should pressure Israel into adopting the necessary measures to protect the Palestinian people. The Security Council is

still discussing this issue. Regrettably, the United States said there is no need for a Security Council resolution and that an official statement by the Security Council president would be sufficient. But this does not commit the concerned parties nor does it serve as a Security Council resolution that is binding on those adopting it.

[Na'na'] Do you think that the al-Ibrahimi Mosque massacre has endangered the Oslo agreement?

[Qaddumi] Yes, this horrendous incident has caused many problems and dealt an almost fatal blow to the Oslo agreement. Israel, particularly Yitzhaq Rabin, is responsible for that. Rabin did not abide by the agreement and tried to exhaust the Palestinian negotiators and dictate his own terms and personal interpretation of this agreement. This robbed the agreement of popular Palestinian support. This was followed by the horrible mosque crime, which drove nails in the coffin of the Oslo agreement and the negotiations.

[Na'na'] How responsible is the United States for this?

[Qaddumi] The United States bears direct responsibility. It should have taken prompt measures instead of claiming that it, as a big power, is protecting human rights and instead of asking China to respect these rights. Can't it pressure Israel, which it considers more than a friend, into safeguarding human rights? Events have proven that Washington erred when it sought to scrap the UN resolution equating Zionism with racism. It is now clear to the world that we were right when we asked the United Nations to issue this resolution. We will ask it to reevaluate this resolution. Our people have been exposed to a Palestinian "holocaust" by those who say they were slaughtered by Nazism. The United States, which claims to be a big power responsible for peace and security in our region and the world, should adopt the necessary measures to put an end to these serious inhuman practices.

[Na'na'] You have been in contact with the U.S. Administration since the massacre. Dennis Ross is expected to visit Tunis before this interview is published, and President Clinton's advisers as well as U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher held several contacts with President 'Arafat. Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev also visited Tunis and met with the Palestinian leaders. Has a new plan emerged from these contacts?

[Qaddumi] I would like to point out the fact that the current U.S. State Department team—Dennis Ross, Martin Indyk, Aaron Miller, Dan Kurtzer, and others—sympathize with Israel and are trying to blackmail the Palestinian people. However, this time they know that they are absolutely incapable of blackmailing us. They should shoulder their international responsibilities and we appeal to President Clinton to personally shoulder this responsibility and impose peace in the region by adopting practical measures that protect our people, impose respect for human rights in the occupied Palestinian territories, and pressure Israel into withdrawing from Gaza and Jericho without any delay. If Washington really wants to sponsor peace and act as a fair arbiter in this process, that is the way they can help restore momentum to the political settlement process.

[Na'na'] In a telephone conversation between U.S. Secretary Christopher and the Palestinian president, the United States threatened the Palestinian leadership. What was the response to this threat?

[Qaddumi] It would take a long time to describe the methods the United States is using to impose its conditions on us. At the same time, however, we realize that the United States is a superpower. This does not hold off the fact that we have clear demands that we will not revoke no matter what pressure is exerted on us because these demands are just. The United States must put pressure on Israel and not on the PLO. Such pressure will not serve the peace process because it reflects injustice meted out against the Palestinian people who are in danger.

[Na'na'] Let us return to the Russian stand, Moscow's initiatives, and visits by Russian envoys.

[Qaddumi] Russia is a friendly country. It is a cosponsor of the peace process. We welcome the Russian friends' initiatives just as we welcome the initiatives of other friendly European countries. Turkey has contacted us. The Turkish foreign minister and Turkish President Sulayman Demirel offered their good offices to help end the crisis. It is not an issue of wagers but an issue of pursuing successful means that maintain our people's security and safety and that push the peace process forward.

[Na'na'] Do you have an alternative to continuing the negotiations now that the peace process reached this point?

[Qaddumi] There is a wrong notion that signing the Oslo agreement means stopping the Palestinian struggle. This is not true. As long as there is an Israeli soldier inside the Palestinian territories, then the resistance must continue. If the Israeli soldiers get out of our territories, then the intifadah will no longer be justified as it is meant to stand against the occupation and get rid of it. I noted this at the Arab League after the signing of the agreement. I very clearly stated that the intifadah will continue as long as there are Israeli soldiers in our territories. According to international laws and the UN charter, it is our right to resist in order to end the occupation, oppression, and persecution.

We are now in a better position because Israel will be politically besieged just as it was during Shamir's days. The world, which condemned the Hebron massacre, realizes that Israel is a racist country and a hotbed of tension in the region. There must be an end to its defiance, which threatens security and peace. We sensed this from statements by countries that are considered Israel's friends.

Moreover, the Jewish communities in many countries have announced their condemnation. The Zionist movement is afraid of a return to anti-semitic currents. They are now feeling the pressure because they made a mistake and they themselves have condemned it, as evident in the condemnation issued by the Zionist organization AIPAC [American-Israel Public Affairs Committee] in the United States. It is an admission of the perpetration of a crime against the Palestinian people, the price of which they will have to pay.

[Na'na'] Israeli investigations proved the Army's involvement in what took place inside the al-Ibrahimi Mosque. Despite this, Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin responded to the massacre by allying himself with a right-wing party. What are your conditions for returning to the negotiations?

[Qaddumi] There are different roles in Israel. Peres is playing games in an intelligent way and Yitzhaq Rabin is intelligently taking advantage of Peres' games. We well realize that Israel's basic objective is to absorb the West Bank and the Gaza Strip. This is because the West Bank offers Israel four advantages. These are:

—Space for more settlement building.
—It forms natural borders with the river Jordan.
—The Israelis consider the West Bank area and the heritage it contains as historical and sacred. This is where the differences over Jerusalem and holy places come in.
—Subterranean water.

The Israelis feel that Gaza is a burden to them. However, this does not mean that they will do away with it without having a foothold in it. As for the settlements, the discussion of which was delayed for two years, they say that the agreement affirms the removal of these settlements as soon as possible without having to discuss the issue for more than the first year or the beginning of the second one. In the end, they wanted us to coexist with these settlements. However, the deal was for us to accept a full withdrawal from Gaza and the Jericho area, defined by the British Mandate for Palestine in 1932, and to postpone the discussion of thorny issues, which we may not be able to solve in a short time. These include the issues of refugees, Jerusalem, and settlements. However, through the negotiations, they insisted on controlling security at crossing points, continuing their presence in and the protection of settlements and expanding them beyond limits. This really means that they will not get out of Gaza and Jericho, they will not implement the agreement, and they will not withdraw as scheduled under the security pretext. This is as if Peres is claiming that Mr. Yitzhaq Rabin does not agree on this and that there are differences between them while, in fact, there are no differences but a distribution of roles.

If Israel wants peace, it should fully withdraw from Gaza and the Jericho area that reaches 345 square km. However, we know that they are playing with the time factor and seeking to take advantage of it. Yitzhaq Rabin does not want peace. Through the Army, he is trying to obstruct the negotiations and to open the way for Peres to say: There are problems inside the territories. The PLO must forgive us as we promised the Knesset to keep the settlements and we cannot go back on this.

The fact is that we do not accept these claims. As I said from the start, Israel will not implement the Oslo agreement. I opposed the agreement out of this conviction. There has to be an Arab deal because we alone, as Palestinians, cannot stand against this ferocious racist onslaught.

[Na'na'] At present, the Palestinian scene is in turmoil. Your people in the occupied territories are concerned and insecure. As Palestinian leaders, can you contain these feelings of concern and insecurity, and provide the necessary solutions to pacify the people under occupation, who constantly feel threatened?

[Qaddumi] The Palestinian people expect the PLO and the Palestinian leadership to take a firm position this time, because the event is too colossal to be brushed aside by any leadership, regardless of the credibility it may enjoy or the popular esteem it may command. Physical and practical measures are required. I hope that the United States will understand this fact and promote peace and the peace process. Israel must pay a political price. We feel that enormous wrath is raging within the souls of Palestinian people. The leadership must reflect the sentiments of the people by making the necessary decisions. We must understand the signals given to us by our generous people. We must provide them with the necessary and proper protection. The current international circumstances provide a propitious opportunity for obtaining such protection. We must not let this opportunity slip from our hands.

[Na'na'] The Soviets [as published] have proposed the reconvening of the Madrid conference. However, talk of such a development died down after the United States opposed this. Do you believe that a reconvening of the Madrid conference could be useful, in terms of promoting the peace process?

[Qaddumi] Before the reconvening of the Madrid conference, or the start of any form of negotiations for that matter, Israel and the United Nations must institute physical measures on the ground, tangible measures the effect of which can be felt by the Palestinian people, to maintain the momentum of the peace process. As for a reconvening of the Madrid conference, it is an important proposal. The proposal is a fine one if it means a meeting held by the big powers to explore the reasons for the procrastination in the peace talks, the developments of the peace process, and its failure to yield results after 22 months. With regard to the current U.S. Administration, it is biased toward Israel. Consequently, the peace process will continue to stumble and falter. The world community must realize that Israel is to blame for these setbacks and difficulties, because it has failed to comply with the Declaration of Principles [DOP] and withdraw

[from Gaza Strip and Jericho], it has set new conditions not enshrined in the basic agreement, and also because of its practices, which capitalize on the Palestinians' strong desire for peace. Exploiting this desire, Israel seeks to force its own interpretation of the DOP.

Yes, a reconvening of the Madrid conference is a good idea, because it would allow us to draw up new foundations for the peace process. I believe that the current U.S. Administration is not as well-versed in the Palestine question as was the previous administration. President Bush was well-intentioned in his quest for progress in the peace process. Hence, we could use a new conference that should include, not just the United States and Russia, but also France, Britain, and China; that is, the five permanent members of the UN Security Council. This means the rehabilitation of the UN resolutions that call for the convening of a UN-sponsored conference with effective international participation and with the attendance of the PLO in its capacity as the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people on an equal footing with the other parties concerned to promote the peace process on clear bases.

[Na'na'] There is strong opposition to the Palestinian leadership, both inside and outside the occupied territories. Several memorandums and petitions opposed to the leadership have been signed. Some of these memorandums have reached the attention of President 'Arafat. Do you not believe that the current phase requires a convening of the Palestine National Council, or of the PLO Central Council, at least? Given the tragedy being experienced by the Palestinian people, is it not proper to call for a national reconciliation conference to be attended by all factions?

[Qaddumi] Not all the memorandums submitted to the leadership expressed opposition. Some of these memorandums have expressed criticisms of the results produced by the DOP. Other memorandums demanded the enhancement of national unity, and urged that the Palestinian house be put in order. Some memorandums have urged expedited efforts to put the Palestinian house in order, streamline action, and promote collective leadership within the PLO, and shun single-handedness. Other memorandums noted the unsatisfactory state of affairs plaguing the PLO and inter-factional ties. All in all, we deem this constructive criticism. We welcome this criticism and hope for its continuation, because it promotes construction, organization, and favorable action. For Palestine is not the property of a single leader or faction. It is the property of the whole Palestinian people, with all their factions and leading figures. The policymaking regarding Palestine should not be the monopoly of anybody. I, in my capacity as secretary of the Fatah Central Committee, am saying this in public, to make things clear. Yes, we do make mistakes. We have an abundance of flaws. Who does not? People who work make mistakes. However, we must learn from these mistakes, correct them, listen to people's views, and share with them. Sharing is indispensable. For we cannot reach an understanding with other factions if they do not share with us, in terms of work, decisionmaking, and execution. He who believes that he can make the masses and factions do whatever he likes is mistaken. Future developments will prove this. When ideas and approaches conflict, this should not lead to division. I might oppose some leading figures on many issues. But, it remains to be said that we must be able to work together. They, enjoying a majority vote, want to go through the experience offered them by the DOP. That is fine with me. We must respect democracy and hold free discussions, away from character assassination. We must not muzzle people. At the same time, there should be no division in our ranks, because division results in losing both ourselves and the cause, as well.

Nonetheless, when a decision is made, everybody must demonstrate discipline and act within the fold.

[Na'na'] Following the collapse of the Soviet Union, the world has been in a state of imbalance. This adversely reflects on our region and the Third World in general. Can the PLO assume the burden of this crucial stage alone without Arab coordination or Arab solidarity?

[Qaddumi] The absence of world conflicts and diverse opinions, which lead to rivalry in sympathizing with and seeking a solution to just fateful causes, has an extremely negative impact on areas of crisis and tension. Nevertheless, we note that special attention is given to the Middle East due to the existence of many material and strategic interests there. Western Europe considers our region its main market, in addition to black Africa. The United States has its oil, commercial, and strategic interests, too. But all this is not being exploited properly by us. What do we note when we take a look at the Arab situation? We find that division, weakness, and lack of solidarity have persisted since the end of the Gulf war. This has adversely reflected on the Palestine question. Had the Maghreb Union not supported the Palestine question before the Madrid conference, the settlement process would have been conducted under more unjust conditions for our people.

The PLO has restored relations with Egypt and Syria and has begun to enter the Gulf region. We believe we are on the right track toward Arab reconciliation. This, however, is not easy because the wounds are deep. But there should be a collective Arab security based on Arab terms that are respected by all so that both small and big states will feel safe from injustice. We are now trying to coordinate with the Arab brothers in order to hold a five-member conference in Cairo directly after 'Id al-Fitr. It will be attended by the Jordanian, Syrian, Egyptian, and Lebanese brothers with the aim of establishing full coordination.

[Na'na'] Apart from the al-Ibrahimi Mosque massacre and its outcome, much is being said about economic talks between you and Israel. Some even say economic coordination is taking place at the expense of the future Palestinian relations with Jordan and the Arab states. You visited Jordan and held talks on this subject and you

are undoubtedly aware of the outcome of negotiations with Israel. What can you say in this regard?

[Qaddumi] We categorically rejected customs union with Israel in our economic talks because it means we will become an Israeli province. They asked that the shekel be our official currency, but we rejected that although we do not object to using it equally with others at a certain stage because necessity knows no laws and we need some time to disengage the Israeli and Palestinian currencies. We told them: When we become independent and sit with you as peers, and when you withdraw your soldiers from our occupied territories, we can strike international agreements with you. The initial stage will be transitional and there will be no customs union or imposition of the shekel as an official currency.

Israel is an occupation force that robbed the Palestinian economy of its infrastructure so that it can be absorbed. This is one of their political aims. It is not an issue of cooperation. How can cooperation take place between a state whose national income is 26-28 billion [not further identified] while the national income of the West Bank and Gaza Strip is only 2 million? The individual's annual income in Gaza is $740, in the West Bank $1,470, and in Israel $12,500. Moreover, the economic annexes stipulate cooperation in all these fields. Actually, they aim at getting concessions from us in what concerns them, especially in subterranean water, electricity, energy, agriculture, and industry. Therefore, we say that the first step is economic independence and cooperation comes later when our economy builds a sound infrastructure. Consequently, no agreements can be concluded now because they will not be sound and will certainly be tilted in favor of Israel.

The Palestinian-Jordanian relations are brotherly relations between two peoples sharing common interests. These relations should be promoted in the next stage on the political and economic levels, especially since we are witnessing constant changes that require us to bolster these relations in practice and not only in daily statements. Therefore, we struck two agreements with the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan to serve this fixed target and to enhance cohesion between our two peoples who are linked with distinguished relations.

Official Calls for Settlers' Withdrawal Timetable

NC1603191194 Paris AFP in English 1816 GMT 16 Mar 94

[Text] Amman, March 16 (AFP)—A senior PLO official Wednesday [16 March] called for a timetable for evacuating Jewish settlers from the occupied territories.

Bassam Abu-Sharif, political adviser to PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat, said the settlers in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip "are an integral part of the Israeli occupation, and that is why it is necessary to set a timetable for their evacuation in parallel with the withdrawal of regular forces."

If the Israeli Government really wanted peace, Abu-Sharif said, "it must go ahead with such an evacuation."

The PLO demanded the dismantling of certain flashpoint settlements in the occupied territories following the February 25 massacre of Arab worshippers in a Hebron mosque by a Jewish settler, Barukh Goldstein.

Abu-Sharif said the United States financed the construction of the Jewish settlements, and should "finance their evacuation as they did for the settlements in the Sinai desert," which was returned to Egypt.

He reiterated the PLO's refusal to resume peace talks with Israel until the United Nations "assumes its total responsibility for protecting the Palestinian people in the occupied territories."

The UN Security Council is due to vote Friday on a draft resolution on the occupied territories.

The PLO has called for the deployment of an international protection force in the territories.

Algeria

Zeroual Receives Message From Syrian Foreign Minister

Others Attend Meeting

JN1603145894 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1215 GMT 16 Mar 94

[Text] President Lamine Zeroual this morning received Syrian Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' and a letter from President Hafiz al-Asad. Talks dealt with the Arab situation and relations between the two fraternal countries.

The meeting was attended by Algerian Foreign Minister Mohamed Salah Dembri and Syrian Ambassador in Algiers Dr. 'Abd-al-Jabbar al-Dahhak. It was also attended by Dr. Mikha'il Wahbah, director of the special bureaus department.

At the end of the meeting, al-Shar' spoke to reporters. He said: I conveyed a letter from President Hafiz al-Asad to His Excellency President Zeroual dealing with bilateral relations, the overall regional situation, and internal developments in fraternal Algeria. I listened to his excellency's assessment of the situation in Algeria and the national dialogue. President Zeroual stressed his concern for Syrian-Algerian relations to me, and I emphasized to his excellency our concern for bilateral relations.

Al-Shar' added: We expressed our conviction that Algeria, through what it enjoys in terms of militant history and important regional and international status, must restore its position and effective role, particularly in the Arab World. This is because Arab and Islamic nations are facing great challenges, and Algeria has an important role to play in confronting these challenges. Collective Arab action will remove many dangers facing us, and will help us all serve our nation's objectives.

Asked about Syria's position on the Security Council's delay in passing a resolution regarding the Hebron massacre, the foreign minister said: Delaying a resolution by the Security Council is not important. What is really important is the substance of such a resolution. Accordingly, we say that such a resolution should not only condemn the hideous crime committed in the holy Ibrahimi Mosque; it should also address the real reasons behind committing such a crime. In other words, a clear position should be taken on the settlements and the armed settlers. These settlers should be disarmed, and the settlements should be dismantled as part of a comprehensive solution that will completely end the Israeli occupation of Arab territories. Otherwise, such terrible massacres can occur again.

Syrian Envoy Comments on Visit

LD1603210094 Algiers ENTV Television Network in Arabic 1900 GMT 16 Mar 94

[Text] On the second day of Syrian Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar's visit, he was received this morning by the head of state, Mr Liamine Zeroual. He then held talks with his Algerian counterpart, Mr Mohamed Salah Dembri. The talks started in the evening at Djenan El Mithak villa and revolved around bilateral ties and the Palestinian cause, which is at the center of all Arab states' concerns. Samia Azzi reports:

[Azzi] Syrian Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' visited Algeria for two days as a special envoy of President Hafiz al-Asad to meet President Liamine Zeroual. This morning, he was met on the second day of his visit by the head of state and handed over a message from Zeroual's Syrian counterpart, Hafiz al-Asad.

At the Foreign Ministry, Mr. Mohamed Salah Dembri received his Syrian counterpart. The talks were extended to include delegations of both countries. Mr. Faruq al-Shar' did not conceal the Syrian Government's concern about what was happening in Algeria.

The talks were not restricted to conditions in Algeria but included bilateral ties and their future. During the meeting, an agreement was reached to revive the activity of the bilateral Algerian-Syrian committee. It is to convene next June.

What is happening in the Middle East, particularly after the massacre at al-Ibrahimi mosque, and the Arab position in general, were subjects discussed by the two sides. They unanimously agreed on the necessity to put the problems forward at the Arab League's ministerial council during its ordinary session.

[Begin recording] [Al-Shar'] I am satisfied with the outcome of this visit. I am particularly satisfied with what I heard from President Zeroual concerning various issues—whether those dealing with international or Arab spheres, including the importance of Arab solidarity and Arab unity to confront various challenges. We held in-depth discussions on the internal situation in sisterly Algeria and also on bilateral ties between the two sisterly countries and means of boosting them. [end recording]

Press Statement Issued

JN1703105094 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0515 GMT 17 Mar 94

["Press statement" issued in Algiers on 16 March]

[Text] Faruq al-Shar', foreign minister of the Syrian Arab Republic, visited Algeria on 3-4 Shawwal 1414 Hegira, corresponding to 15-16 March 1994, as a special envoy of His Excellency President Hafiz al-Asad of the Syrian Arab Republic.

During his stay in Algiers, he was received by His Excellency President Lamine Zeroual, who received a

message from al-Shar' addressed to him by his brother His Excellency President Hafiz al-Asad of the Syrian Arab Republic.

A round of talks was held between Foreign Minister Mohamed Salah Dembri and Syrian Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar'. Delegations from the two countries took part in the talks. The two sides reviewed the overall fraternal ties between the two countries and their future prospects. They decided to revive the meetings of the Joint Syrian-Algerian Committee in Algiers in June 1994.

The two sides also exchanged views on Arab and international issues of common interest, foremost among which is the Middle East peace process, and the obstacles plaguing it due to Israeli intransigence, procrastination, and attempts to drag the concerned Arab sides into partial solutions. They agreed that the desired regional peace must be just and comprehensive and grounded in the relevant international legitimacy resolutions, particularly UN Security Council Resolutions 242, 338, and 425.

With regard to the occupied Syrian Golan, the two sides reasserted the need for Israel to effect a complete withdrawal from the occupied Syrian Golan in accordance with the relevant international legitimacy resolutions. They also demanded complete Israeli withdrawal from all other occupied Arab territories. The two sides also said that the restoration of the legitimate national rights of the Palestinian people must be guaranteed.

The two sides reiterated their condemnation of the heinous massacre committed by Israeli settlers at the holy Ibrahimi Mosque in Hebron, the occupied Palestinian West Bank. They appealed to the international community to shoulder its responsibilities in this regard to ensure the protection of the Palestinian people in the occupied Arab territories.

The two sides underscored that the drastic situation in the occupied Arab territories requires the termination of the Israeli occupation and the dismantlement of settlements in accordance with international legitimacy and the relevant UN resolutions.

The two sides examined the overall Arab situation and the sincere efforts required to rehabilitate Arab solidarity. They maintained that all efforts aimed at achieving a serious Arab reconciliation must be encouraged. The two sides also exchanged views on the topics listed on the agenda of the next ordinary session of the Arab League Ministerial Council.

Mindful of the importance of the issues pertaining to Mediterranean security and cooperation, and in light of European initiatives in this regard, the two sides urged an Arab initiative to call for a seminar to be attended by the Arab Mediterranean states for consultations and coordination, and also to crystallize joint positions toward these issues.

Security Services Kill Suspected Assassins

LD1603202494 Algiers ENTV Television Network in Arabic 1900 GMT 16 Mar 94

[Text] The security services informed us about two hours ago that after thorough investigations in the Casbah district the security forces have been able to eliminate the gang that assassinated our colleague the journalist Hassan Benaouda on 5 March. The security forces stormed a house in the Casbah district that was used as a hideout. They were able to eliminate two members of the gang—Keriati Salah, 24 years old, the ringleader of the crime, and Dakadjar Mohamed, 26 years old. Three members of the gang were arrested—Cherchali Samir, 23 years old; Bouhedda Hocine, 19 years old; and Lehdjal Djamel, 23 years old.

Also Today EL WATAN, quoting security sources, said that those supposedly involved in the assassination of our journalist colleague Abdelkader Hireche had been eliminated after the security forces clashed with the armed gang consisting of six people in the Rue de Constantine where they lived. Three of them were killed, the other three were wounded, and the weapons in their possession were recovered. The three who were killed were Chelila Laid, unemployed; Seblal Mohamed, unemployed; and Benkhoutir Nabil who lived in Tarablus Street in Hocine Dey.

The security services also said that during this week their forces had been able to eliminate 57 terrorists in Blida, Algiers, Batna, and Bouira Provinces. A large quantity of weapons that had been in their possession was recovered. Numerous terrorist elements, many of whom had been identified and were wanted by the security and justice services, were arrested.

Egypt

Mubarak Interviewed on Domestic, International Events

NC1603165794 Cairo AL-JUMHURIYAH in Arabic 11 Mar 94 p 3

["Text" of interview with President Husni Mubarak by AL-HAWADITH Chief Editor Milhim Karam in Cairo, originally published by the London-based AL-HAWADITH magazine, issue not given; date of interview not given]

[Text] [Karam] In your opinion, what will happen with regard to the peace process?

[Mubarak] Despite what has recently happened and despite the difficulties attending the negotiations, which is natural, we consider the peace process a basic issue for all Palestinians and the whole region.

I believe that the massacre at the al-Ibrahimi Mosque is a terrible tragedy. We were all deeply hurt by it. The

person who committed this crime was an extremist and we all know how every extremist behaves.

I expect the peace process to continue; in fact, I am confident it will. I also know very well that the Palestinian and Israeli leaders need peace, and extremists in any part of this world do not want peace because they thrive in an atmosphere of extremism. However, the peace process must progress.

[Karam] What happens after peace?

[Mubarak] There has to be effective cooperation in the interests of the people. The French and the Germans were arch-enemies but common interests imposed cooperation upon them. The issue is not one of friendship, fraternity, and love; that is another issue among the countries of the region. There are mutual and shared interests and we all need to cooperate on them.

[Karam] What do you think about the growth of fundamentalism in the region?

[Mubarak] Fundamentalism in the region requires the attention of the leaders. It also requires firmness. Fundamentalism has existed for some time. It was never given the attention it merits. This was the case in Algeria, and today Algeria is suffering from this problem. The same applies to Tunisia as well, but the Tunisian leadership under Zine El Abidine Ben Ali has succeeded in muzzling and containing the growth of fundamentalism. This phenomenon also emerged in Egypt, but they are not Muslims in the real sense of the word.

They are all a batch of dangerous mercenary criminals manipulated from abroad. They are paid by some people who want to create unrest in Egypt and in the region. These sides are spending large amounts of money to implement their schemes. The Hebron operation is extremism par excellence. Extremism exists not only in our region but in the United States, England, and Australia. I do not wish to mention other countries.

[Karam] You mentioned that it should be paid due and careful attention. Does this mean that some leaderships have neglected this problem?

[Mubarak] I cannot call it negligence, but the leaders need to realize that some nongovernmental bodies with huge funds at their disposal are carrying out suspicious acts. We need to know how these funds are spent. In the end, extremism will bite the hand that feeds it.

Can you believe that the nongovernmental societies that solicit contributions spend these contributions only on building mosques? Bear in mind that these societies use mosques as a pretext to plant extremism in the countries where they build the mosques. They form hotbeds and cells in the various regions. When these hotbeds get stronger, they make their move.

[Karam] Don't you think that the lack of remedies for economic problems and poor living conditions are the cause of these movements' growth?

[Mubarak] They might be a secondary factor, but not the basic factor. Economic crises and unemployment existed in the past and economic problems have always existed worldwide. Why have these movements appeared only now? I remember we had the problem of a continually rising cost of living during my student days. It is not possible for a government employee to own a villa and a car and live in total comfort on his salary. A government employee's salary is small because it comes from the state's revenue, from taxes and customs duties.

[Karam] What is Egypt's attitude toward the new world order?

[Mubarak] What order? You should ask what Egypt's attitude is toward the new chaotic system. It is a chaotic system; today's world is chaotic. Is what is happening in Russia a new world order? Is what is happening in the eastern bloc a new world order? Is what is happening in Iran and Afghanistan a new world order? Is what is happening in Bosnia-Herzegovina a new world order? Do the conspiracies we see today indicate a new world order? The term is wrong; I call it the new chaotic system. Today's system is not permanent; it is transitional, and the final shape of the world order is not clear yet. China is still growing stronger, Japan's trade is prospering. There is a conflict between the United States and Japan. Indonesia is still making progress in development. Russia is still living in the shadow of nuclear and nonnuclear conflicts. The process is far from clear and will need a long time to settle down. We must not feel optimistic about the appearance of a new world order in view of the chaos in which we are living today. The international order will come only after the chaotic system ends.

[Karam] Your Excellency, as OAU chairman, could you please speak to us about Africa's aspirations?

[Mubarak] Development is scant in Africa. The continent is still suffering endless problems and will need great efforts and many years to overcome them. We are trying hard, something we began to do at the last summit, to end the current conflicts and disputes, which are mostly border disputes. Had they abided by the OAU summit's resolution of the 1960's... [sentence unfinished as published] May 'Abd-al-Nasir rest in peace. He used to say all African countries must accept the borders drawn by the colonialists and that they must not be at each other's mercy. Problems persist in Liberia, Nigeria, Somalia, and Sudan.

[Karam] What does the South want form the North?

[Mubarak] Dialogue. We do not want the North to buy raw materials from the South at cheap prices and sell commodities at exorbitant prices that the South cannot afford to buy. This is only one of several examples. A dialogue must be held between the South and North. It is unreasonable for the North to live in luxury while the South can hardly subsist.

[Karam] Egypt is a member of the Group of 15. Is this a nucleus for the South to reach a unified stance?

[Mubarak] That is possible, because all members of the Group of 15 are from the South.

[Karam] What about reconciliation in Somalia?

[Mubarak] There are numerous problems there. The African summit sought to set up a committee to settle the Somali problems. There are problems impeding our work. We hosted a meeting of certain rival Somali factions, but not Farah Aidid, who did not wish to come. As chairman of the OAU, I speak fairly and neutrally and I do not take sides with any party. I do not support Mahdi against Aidid or vice versa. We are working to achieve Somali unity. The rival factions must agree among themselves so that their people can lead a stable life. If the leaders fail to agree, the people will not be able to lead normal lives. Our goal is to work out a way for the rival factions to reach an agreement and form a government that can take care of the people's interests.

[Karam] What about Sudan and Hala'ib?

[Mubarak] What about Hala'ib? They raised this issue during President al-Sadat's as well as 'Abd-al-Nasir's eras. Now they are raising the issue with me. They want to fabricate a case against us. Al-Turabi wants to trump up a problem. They are free to do what they want, but we have no problems.

[Karam] What about the Nonaligned Movement and the Group of 77?

[Mubarak] They are all aligned. Small countries need big ones to help them in their development plans. That is what brother Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi said. He is right; all the members are aligned. These days alignment concerns to whom and against whom. The Nonaligned Movement has lost its reasons for existing.

[Karam] Will the Hebron Mosque massacre recur?

[Mubarak] I pray to God it will not recur against anyone—be they Muslims, Christians, or Jews.

[Karam] And the Sayyidat al-Najat Church massacre in al-Zuq?

[Mubarak] That was also a painful massacre for all of us. People are getting mad. What have innocent people done? Why has the criminal entered the mosque to kill people? Why have they entered the church to kill people? Worshipers went to holy places to pray to their God, but had a date with death instead. Is this acceptable?

If a Muslim makes a mistake, then let us deal with him personally. If a Christian makes a mistake, then let us deal with and punish him personally. If a Jew makes a mistake, let us deal with him personally and not butcher people at random.

[Karam] Since we mentioned Lebanon, what about Resolution 425 and peace, especially as Egypt has responded to the Arab League resolution in Damascus to help Lebanon in its dealings with the Arab countries. What is the extent of this help?

[Mubarak] We are committed to this aid and the time will come to send it to Lebanon.

Regarding the issue of peace, we have been working for peace in Lebanon in all international circles even before the peace process began. When Shim'on Peres was prime minister, I spoke with him about the Israeli withdrawal from Lebanon. He was convinced and drew up the withdrawal plan. He told me: If you guarantee that not a single Katyusha will be fired at northern Israel, then I will withdraw immediately. Peres also told me: I do not want to stay in Lebanon. An Israeli withdrawal must be provided for in the peace process.

[Karam] Is the peace process serious and imminent?

[Mubarak] Of course, but it requires some time. Let us not forget that this issue is 45 years old and we should not expect it to be resolved immediately.

Of course there are obstacles, but peace is coming. The Palestinian issue is the crux.

[Karam] Is the Israeli Government in danger and will extremism triumph in Israel?

[Mubarak] I do not believe that extremism will win in Israel. Either Israeli or Palestinian extremism might delay the peace process, but they will not sabotage it because peace is the just demand of the peoples, who want to live.

[Karam] What is the fate of the negotiations with Israel?

[Mubarak] They are part of the peace process. Israel and the Palestinians are supposed to meet in the United States in order to act on what they decided on in Cairo. They almost ended all the differences. The agreement that they reach in the United States will later be signed in Cairo.

[Karam] Will Lebanon and Syria reach a solution with Israel on its withdrawal from the Golan and the south?

[Mubarak] I am confident that these two issues will be solved.

[Karam] What about Iraq's status; and how are the current ties between Egypt and Iraq?

[Mubarak] We feel sorry for the Iraqi people. We are against the partitioning of Iraq. Our stand on this issue is firm and clear-cut. We support the Iraqi people, who cannot eke out their livelihood. What pains us is that the Iraqi people are an Arab Muslim people. Had Saddam Husayn heeded my words and honest advice, nothing would have happened. His position could have grown even stronger and that Iraq's strength could have been an additional force in support of the Arab force.

[Karam] What about Egypt's relations with Saudi Arabia?

[Mubarak] Our relations with Saudi Arabia and all the other Gulf states are good and fraternal.

[Karam] And what about your relations with Iran?

[Mubarak] We have no relations with Iran. We were about to exchange ambassadors a year ago. But obviously they differed among themselves. Velayati said he would open an embassy office. I told him: No thank you; we do not need embassy offices.

[Karam] What about your relations with Lebanon and Syria?

[Mubarak] They are integrated, fraternal relations.

[Karam] What do you think of the situation in Algeria, and what about the Lockerbie issue?

[Mubarak] I hope that our brothers in Algeria, led by President Zeroual, will end the rancorous extremism that is bound to nullify all the people's potentials. All sides, if they wish to preserve their country, must sit together with the president and talk about solutions that will end the problems.

As for the Lockerbie issue, we made strenuous efforts, but the world is currently preoccupied with the security of Bosnia and Somalia. I hope we will find a solution that will enable Libya to end the issue, because handing over citizens is difficult and sensitive.

[Karam] Has communism ended? And what about Egypt's relations with Russia today?

[Mubarak] Egypt's relations with Russia are very good. It's my policy to establish good relations with all countries. I do not want to be anyone's enemy. Only Iran is hostile to Egypt. We are not hostile to Iran. We did not even sever ties with Sudan, which cooperates with Iran.

There are 4 million Sudanese citizens in Egypt, maybe more. President al-Bashir once told me that there are only 120,000 Sudanese in Egypt. I told him: I can send them to you so that you can count them.

As for communism, we cannot say that it has ended. It is developing so as to be in line with the new world order, or the new chaotic order.

[Karam] Has tourism suffered a setback in Egypt? Have the fundamentalists' acts of violence frightened tourists away?

[Mubarak] Yes. The number of tourists visiting Egypt has decreased. The fundamentalists—whom I call terrorists—have nothing to do with religion. None of them memorizes a single Koranic verse. Egypt's civilization goes back 7,000 years, so Egypt will not be crippled by a group of terrorists. Egypt is not just Husni Mubarak: There are a million Mubaraks and leaders in Egypt. The terrorists will have no impact on this state, which believes in its democratic course.

[Karam] Has the Egyptian economy suffered a recession as a result?

[Mubarak] Recession is affecting all countries of the world and not Egypt alone. There is recession in Europe, the United States, and all other countries.

[Karam] Those who like you say that President Mubarak is inimitably easy going, that is, his cards are on the table. Despite this, he plays his cards well, puzzling other players. President Mubarak's approach is that he does not despair if there is little hope. He does not show his emotions and always maintains his poise. How have you managed to combine all these qualities?

[Mubarak] This is my way of life, since I started work, when I was a pilot. I have always been patient, thought ahead, and planned for the future. I do not look just at what is under my nose but ahead. I not only work for tomorrow but for what comes after tomorrow. If I merely wanted to work for tomorrow, people would stand in line and applaud me, but when I am gone there would be a collapse. I think of the future generations. I do not want to be egoistic, but I want those who come after me to live. I do not just seek my own good. Had the infrastructure been taken care of before, I would not have had to spend 100 billion pounds on rebuilding it. We would have a more prosperous life, but this is our fate. After we finished with war, we began to work to enable our people to live. We built the infrastructure and then the new cities, factories, agricultural projects, and production sites for the Egyptian people.

[Karam] What are you doing to resolve the problem of the 1.25 million people born in Egypt every year?

[Mubarak] That number is currently decreasing and we are trying to create many jobs for Egypt's sons.

[Karam] Palestinian president Yasir 'Arafat has repeatedly described Egypt as a full partner of the Palestinians. How does Egypt view its role within this framework?

[Mubarak] The Palestinian issue is our own; we have adopted it. We were attacked several times for adopting this stance. We still defend the Palestinian issue; we cannot go back on our support for the Palestinians.

[Karam] You played a personal and effective role in concluding the Cairo agreement at a time when the talks had almost failed. Did the problem lie in the Palestinians' refusal to abandon the Oslo agreement or in their bypassing of that agreement?

[Mubarak] We tried to help the Palestinians when they reached a dead end and asked for our help. We spoke with the Israelis and solved the obstacle to the talks.

[Karam] Some moderate Palestinian parties saw in the Cairo agreement an unwarranted concession on their part. What is the Egyptian view of this?

[Mubarak] You have to get a foothold and then ask for more. Public opinion must know that coexistence will happen.

[Karam] There is a prevailing belief that the Cairo agreement was lax on the issue of the existence of the settlements and the settlers' freedom of movement during the transitional stage, as this would strengthen their presence even in the final stage. This entails the building of roads and bridges that will cost too much and are unjustifiable. If the transitional period is to last just three years, why build bridges and roads?

[Mubarak] We have nothing to do with the details; they are the affairs of the two sides. As to the first part of the question, I say that you cannot demand the removal of the settlements on the first day of your entry. First you have first to enter and settle down. The contacts will lead to a solution of the settlement issue and both sides will reject this issue. [sentence as published] Had they accepted the principles of the Camp David agreement, they would have found that there were only four settlements in 1978, and these were very small.

Today there are 180 settlements and they are all very large. The settlement issue is not an easy one, but very difficult. We were late in agreeing to start of the peace negotiations.

[Karam] What are the effects of the al-Ibrahimi Mosque massacre on the Cairo agreement? Some people are saying that this agreement is finished now that the failure of the Israeli protection for it has been shown?

[Mubarak] The Cairo agreement was an affirmation of some principles of the Oslo agreement. We negotiated here to resolve the details of the issues and were almost finished. I expect the negotiations to resume soon, once things calm down, and that the parties will sign the agreement.

I do not pay attention to statements and rumors that come from here or there. The one making a statement might want to sow unrest between the Palestinians and Israelis so that they will become more intransigent. But we are fully conscious of this. I tell the Palestinians: Get a foothold first, and then make further demands. Today the Palestinians are talking while they are outside their territories. When I am on the outside, my words are weaker than when I am speaking on the inside.

[Karam] Are you happy with the Palestinian coordination with the Arab sides directly concerned with the peace negotiations? Egypt, and you personally, played a major role in bringing the PLO closer to Syria and Jordan.

[Mubarak] There must be cooperation and coordination. I have a mission to carry out, namely: unity.

[Karam] If the al-Ibrahmi Mosque massacre is not enough—as seems to be the case judging by Israeli statements—to gain vital concessions during the negotiations, do the Palestinians still have a chance to make better gains and to overcome the breaches in the Oslo and Cairo agreements, and how?

[Mubarak] I hope that some of the existing problems will be solved. The two sides are discussing the details of the agreement; there is no real problem. We have made a big stride.

[Karam] Why is no Arab summit being held to deal with the Arab situation, and what are the real obstacles impeding the convening of such a summit?

[Mubarak] We do not do not have an Arab summit absolutely every year. Arab divisions after the invasion and occupation of Kuwait caused a split in the Arab world.

At the same time, we see that Abu-'Ammar has visited Saudi Arabia to perform the minor pilgrimage. I expect that King Husayn will make a similar visit. I have talked with brother King Fahd concerning Abu-'Ammar and King Husayn. But when I talk with King Fahd, some people think that I am trying to turn him against them. This is absolutely untrue. I contact Arab brothers and the outside world to serve the Arab nation. I also managed to bring the views of Presidents Clinton and al-Asad closer.

[Karam] The Arab delegations have suspended their participation in the peace talks in protest of the al-Ibrahimi massacre. And now that Egypt has asked the UN Security Council to form an committee to investigate the massacre, what, in your opinion, should be done to resume the negotiations and to end the stalemate engulfing them in order to reach a real, all-embracing, just, and comprehensive peace? And are we still likely to see the real beginning of peace in 1994?

[Mubarak] I am confident that this year will see the real beginning of peace. The delay in the peace negotiations is regrettable. The Arab countries did not ask for a suspension of the negotiations. Rather they asked for a postponement of the negotiations in consideration of Palestinian feelings. Everyone demands peace.

We cannot give up on peace because of the massacre, for this would mean the triumph of brute force. We condemn this massacre and we demand that measures be adopted to prevent any similar massacres. But it is inadmissible to stop the peace process because of this massacre.

[Karam] Do you see any links between the al-Ibrahimi Mosque massacre in Hebron and the Sayyidat al-Najat Church massacre in Lebanon?

[Mubarak] I do not have enough information about these two massacres, but both are tragedies.

[Karam] What do you believe is the ideal solution for the future of Bosnia-Herzegovina and for ending the Muslims' tragedy there? What role must the United Nations and the big Western powers play to deal with this crisis? Will the intervention of NATO speed up the solution, and in whose favor?

[Mubarak] All I can say here is that the isolation of the Muslims in a state on their own is wrong and dangerous. The Muslims and Christians must coexist within the framework of their state.

[Karam] It is known that you are a great media man. What role do you feel the Arab media should play at this extremely crucial and sensitive stage in the life of the Arab nation?

[Mubarak] I ask the Arab media at this point in time to be realistic and accurate in their reports, because communications in the world are now very fast. The Arab media should do this to avoid harming the Arab nation.

Let us be realistic, moderate, logical, and intelligent in our media, whether in presenting our causes or discussing problems.

[Karam] Do you believe the Arab world will emerge from the narrow definitions that have been set for it—namely, that it belongs to the Third World?

[Mubarak] If the Arab countries could cooperate with each other on firm and strong bases, and if we could do away with the spirit of scheming and aggression against each other and give up ideas of intervening in each other's affairs, we could become a strong, gigantic entity.

Musa Comments on Clinton's Remarks, Peace Process

Says Clinton Remarks 'Tactical'

NC1603220594 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2050 GMT 16 Mar 94

[Text] Cairo, 16 Mar (MENA)—Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa said that the Egyptian role in the Middle East peace process is inspired by a strategic outlook where the Palestinian problem, which has lasted for too long, should be resolved so that the Middle East may enter a new phase. Musa added that a just peace should involve Israel's withdrawal from the occupied Arab territories and the recognition of the Palestinians' right to self-determination.

Speaking at a seminar on the "Future of Peace in the Middle East," which was held at Cairo University tonight, Musa said that the Middle East does not live in isolation from fast-breaking developments that have altered the postwar world. A new world order is coming into being, although its features may remain unclear because it is still in a transitional stage. Egyptian diplomacy takes note of these developments, Musa said. He added that those who remain isolated will fall behind.

The foreign minister mentioned that following the Cold War, regional conflicts in Asia, Africa, and Latin America found their way to the negotiating table. It was natural that the Palestinian issue would move toward a solution with the new changes in today's world.

Musa declared that Egypt does not impose its views on the Palestinians or any other Arab party, but simply offers assistance when requested to do so and when it deems that its assistance is needed.

The foreign minister reiterated Egypt's position on Jerusalem; namely, that Jerusalem is part of the occupied Arab territories. Egypt, he said, rejects all Israeli measures that were implemented with a view to Judaizing Jerusalem or declaring it Israel's eternal capital.

Musa responded to a recent statement by U.S. President Bill Clinton that Washington sees Jerusalem as Israel's capital. The foreign minister described this statement as political and tactical [siyasi wa taktiki]. If this statement signals a new U.S. policy toward Jerusalem, Musa said, then Egypt completely differs with Washington about this policy. The foreign minister pointed out that the U.S. Embassy in Israel is still in Tel Aviv.

Minister Musa said that the Palestinian-Israeli Declaration of Principles signed on 13 September 1993, stipulates that the issue of Jerusalem is a topic open to negotiations. Jerusalem is an open issue and Israel's measures there are invalid and illegitimate, Musa declared.

The foreign minister voiced dismay over the UN Security Council's delay in denouncing the massacre at al-Ibrahimi Mosque. Describing the position of the UN Security Council as most regrettable, Musa said that a resolution passed more than two weeks after the massacre does not have the same force and effect of one issued immediately. The role of the Security Council is getting shakier by the day. The Security Council is losing its effect on and importance for world public opinion and is beginning to fall into the trap of double standards, a matter which will lead to the erosion of UN credibility, Musa stated.

Minister Musa denounced the Israeli settlements in the occupied territories as being invalid and illegitimate. The Egyptian position following the massacre was not only one of condemnation but also of calling for measures to guarantee the safety of the Palestinians living in the occupied territories. Security is a two-way street and the Israelis should have no monopoly on it, Musa stated.

The foreign minister said that Egypt is calling for the removal of some settlements, the disarmament of settlers, and the outlawing of Israeli terrorist organizations. He pointed out that Israel already outlawed two of these organizations: Kahkh and Kahana Hay.

Minister Musa said that such demands will be presented at the negotiating table once the peace talks are resumed. This underlines the need to resume these talks, he stated. Musa said that there are only two methods to restore one's rights: either war or negotiations. Shouting and calling for the discontinuation of negotiations do not produce results, he remarked.

Concerning the Middle East market, Musa said that this is an idea that has only been expressed, not yet implemented. There should be no fear of Israel because it is not a major country [laysat dawla kubra] in the region, he said. The foreign minister said that, regardless of what we may feel about it, economic cooperation in the Middle East will be a normal matter once a just peace has been achieved.

Musa said that Egypt will definitely not provide Israel with water from the Nile. Egypt will not sign the treaty on nonproliferation of nuclear weapons unless Israel signs it, he added.

Ministry: Remarks 'Cannot Be Taken Seriously'

PM1703112294 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 17 Mar 94 p 6

[Report by Muhammad 'Allam: "Sha'th: We Will Return To Negotiations If Required Security Is Provided"]

[Excerpts] Cairo—Dr. Nabil Sha'th, political adviser to the Palestinian president, has reemphasized that "there can be no return to the negotiations before the Security Council resolution is adopted, not only because it represents international legitimacy, but because it should be complied with by the two cosponsors of the peace conference, including the United States, as an instrument capable of being implemented to guarantee better protection for the Palestinian people." [passage omitted]

While the statements attributed to U.S. President Bill Clinton, in which he considered "Jerusalem the unified capital of Israel," have provoked Palestinian condemnation, the Foreign Ministry believe that these statements "cannot be taken seriously, because they were remarks reportedly made by the U.S. President at a dinner banquet and did not emanate from him personally."

In a statement to AL-HAYAH a Foreign Ministry source added that, if these statements were "a declared official position, they would have been dealt with differently." Besides, "the way in which they are currently being dealt with is exaggerated."

Meanwhile, official sources have denied that Cairo offered to host a meeting between 'Arafat and Rabin in Egypt. They said: "The offer is American." Cairo expressed willingness to host the meeting if 'Arafat agrees and believes that it would be useful. They said that " 'Arafat turned down the offer." [passage omitted]

Muslim Brotherhood Comments

PM1703112894 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 17 Mar 94 p 7

[Text] Cairo, AL-HAYAH—The Muslim Brotherhood group in Egypt criticized the United States yesterday. A statement issued by the group said that "the U.S. President's recent statements reflect his continued support for the Zionist enemy's racist and settlement policy. Proof of this is the U.S. Administration's position at the Security Council and its obstruction of merely a statement condemning the ugly massacre committed by the Zionist occupation forces, which blessed what the Zionist settler had done, namely the murder of 40 worshipers, and have since themselves killed over 50 people so far."

The statement said: "The peoples of the Islamic world view with great anger the U.S. Administration's position, which treats the rights of Muslims in Palestine and holy Jerusalem with contempt." The statement urged the Islamic nation "to condemn the U.S. position on the Palestinian issue and express popular anger at this position, which is totally biased toward the Zionist enemy."

Concluding the statement, the Muslim Brotherhood group said: "We remind the U.S. Administration that its interests are linked with the peoples of the Islamic world. It is impossible for the current situation to continue as it stands. Ignoring the Arabs' and Muslims' rights in Palestine, in particular holy Jerusalem, negates the United States' neutrality and possible mediation in resolving the Palestinian issue—which is clearly reflected in the current negotiations."

Israel, Egypt Trade Charges of Espionage

NC1603221794 Cairo AL-AHALI in Arabic 9 Mar 94 pp 1, 9

[Text] An Israeli security delegation will visit Cairo next week to discuss Egyptian accusations that Israel is continuing its spying on vital installations in Egypt, providing terrorist groups with weapons, and exploiting the Israeli Academic Center as a cover for spying activities. Israel in return accuses Egyptian officials of being behind the assassination of Albert Attalichi, former administrative attache in the Israeli embassy in Cairo. It bases this accusation on Egypt's demand for his withdrawal before his assassination after accusing him of involvement in spying activities against Egypt.

The Israeli security delegation's visit will be made under the cover of searching for the remains of 19 Israeli officers killed during the October war. But the main objective of the visit is to discuss the worsening security crisis between Egypt and Israel. Israel is demanding the release of four Israeli spies arrested in Sinai last year in return for releasing eight Egyptians detained in Israeli prisons. One of the important Egyptian security organs refuses to release the Israeli spies, who were caught with 24 rolls of film of vital installations in their possession as well as reports on Egypt's peaceful nuclear program and the ministries' buildings, activities, and guards.

More than 16 Egyptians in Sinai had reported that the four spies had contacted them in an attempt to recruit them.

The Egyptian side is also raising the issue of the role of six Israeli officers in distributing weapons inside Egypt, particularly in Upper Egypt. The six officers are: Mordechai 'Azar, Benyamin Vatanniyu, Ra'ul Farhat, Menahem Raymond, Shokhoi Avraham, and Sosen

Musa. All of them are members of the Israeli military intelligence service and were helped by two of staff of Israel's Cairo embassy to smuggle weapons in diplomatic bags. The Egyptian security services monitored 12 contacts between these two employees and 35 Egyptian figures; they arrested 22 of the latter and seized weapons like those captured with terrorist groups. Egyptian authorities have asked for the recall of the involved embassy staff.

Egypt has also protested a new attempt to continue with the same activities by three embassy employees who were recently expelled. Israel objected to this expulsion, regarding it as a non-cordial act.

The talks will also involve the activities of the Israeli Academic Center. Egyptian authorities have in their possession documents on research and information collected by the center, including four documents about the People's Assembly and two about the cabinet, in addition to documents and other studies on the ministries of defense, interior, education, economy, agriculture, industry, and planning.

Egyptian security organs' reports noted that diplomatic pouches are used to carry information to Tel Aviv. They said that six Egyptian researchers who cooperated with the Israeli Academic Center gave Egyptian authorities information and documents on the center's role and spying activities.

While the United States is trying to contain the crisis through its Cairo Embassy on the pretext that its escalation would marginalize the Egyptian role in the peace process, Egyptian authorities are demanding the removal of the director of the Israeli Academic Center and an end to Israel's hostile activities against Egypt.

Nine Sentenced to Death for Attempt on Sidqi's Life

NC1703072594 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0650 GMT 17 Mar 94

[Text] Cairo, 17 Mar (MENA)—The Higher Military Court this morning passed the death sentence against nine defendants involved in an assassination attempt against Prime Minister Dr. 'Atif Sidqi. Fifteen defendants, including six fugitives, were on trial in this case, which is better known as the "Vanguards of Conquest" case.

Three defendants were given a 15-year prison term with hard labor, one defendant was given a five-year prison term with hard labor, one was sentenced to three years in prison and fined 500 Egyptian pounds, and another defendant was acquitted.

The defendants sentenced to death are: Fugitives 'Adil al-Sayyid 'Abd-al-Quddus, Tharwat Salah Shihatah, Yasir 'Ali al-Sirri, and Ahmad Isma'il 'Uthman, Salah al-Sayyid Sulyman, Usama Muhammad 'Abd-al-Rahman, Nur-al-Din Sulayman Muhammad, Amin Isma'il Mustafa, and Tariq 'Abd-al-Nabi al-Fahli.

The defendants sentenced to 15 years in prison with hard labor are: Tuhami Ahmad 'Abdallah, Muhammad 'Ali 'Ali Khalil, and Hani 'Abdallah 'Abd-al-Ra'uf. Defendant 'Abd-al-Rahman Hamid was given a five-year sentence with hard labor. Defendant Wahid Sa'd Fikri al-Mikkawi, a fugitive, was sentenced to three years in prison and fined 500 Egyptian pounds. Defendant 'Amr Husayn, also a fugitive, was acquitted.

Article on West's Views of Islam, Fundamentalism

NC1603043594 Cairo AL-AHRAM in Arabic 9 Mar 94 p 8

[Article by 'Atif al-Ghamri: "The West and Its New Enemy"]

[Text] The Muslims are coming!

This is the expression that is being re-used, with some variations, to take the place of the ones that used to dangle in front of the public in the West like "commandments" at the peak of the Cold War. These expressions used to say that the Russians are coming.

Although this warning has been spread a little bit here and a little bit there, what is very noticeable about it is that many of its aspects originate from the United States. For example, Dan Quayle, the former U.S. vice president, used to speak about what he called the danger of extremist Islamic fundamentalism. He placed it in the same basket as Nazism and communism. There were many articles and analyses written in various papers discussing the war of the Muslims against the West. These articles used the words terrorism, fundamentalism, and Islam interchangeably and synonymously.

This is the meaning Professor Bernard Lewis used in a lecture entitled "Islamic Fundamentalism" in which he reiterated the notion of the expected clash between the Islamic and Western civilizations.

The famous American magazine ATLANTIC dedicated a large amount of space to an article headlined "The Roots of Islamic Hatred."

There is need for reflection when a writer like Professor John Esposito, one of the respected intellectuals taking part in the activities of Oxford University and the Royal British Academy for International Affairs, attacks this trend, which has created a general wave of fear of Islam. He recently published a book entitled *The Islamic Threat: Myth or Reality*. He is renowned for his objective interest in Islamic studies and he has numerous earlier publications and studies, including his book *Islam, the Right Way*.

In his new and valuable book, he observes a number of phenomena in this campaign, which concentrates on what it calls the Islamic threats to the West.

He notes that there is a great deal of exaggeration, bias, and ignorance of reality. He also claims that incitement of Western societies toward a danger that is threatening them is the method previously used in an exaggerated way with the Soviet Union, thus molding it as the evil empire.

This policy served the purpose of, and to a certain extent justified the allocation of resources to immense military expenditure and support for the giant American military industries in the United States.

This concentration on, and highlighting of the threat, at the expense of other perspectives of the elements of interaction inside the Soviet Union used to lead many of the government's agencies and departments, intellectuals, and political studies' centers to make the wrong deductions. It destroyed their ability to foresee the collapse of the Soviet Union, which had already deteriorated internally economically and socially. The threats that gripped the West in the pre-Soviet collapse years did not depict the reality in its absolute picture.

Confronting the campaign on Islamic threats constitutes a challenge to whoever accepts such a role, because there are two ways to approach the truth about Islam. One of them is the easy way: Present Islam as a historic enemy with a doctrine and agenda for natural hostility to the West. The difficult approach is to move away from ready-made cliches and delve into an in-depth analysis of the actual situation.

Adopting the second approach provides the evidence for the shortcomings of adopting the first approach, because Islam is not Khomeyni or al-Qadhdhafi, and those among the Muslim leaders who adopt terrorism are not necessarily the ones who portray the real Islam.

Many of those who now bear the banner of Islam are performing political actions. Their objective is political. For them, Islam is the guaranteed method to attract the largest number of people to their ranks because it is the most effective call under the current political circumstances where the masses do not respond to the calls of political doctrines that recently lost their effectiveness.

Every one of these leaders expresses a political state that evolved within the framework of its particular society and not the general Islamic world.

Therefore, it is a mistake not to consider each condition separately within the boundaries of its historic political, social, and psychological components, and to resort to generalizations.

For example, it is wrong to explain what has happened and is happening in Sudan, Lebanon, and Yugoslavia religiously and to view it from the perspective of a Christian-Muslim confrontation. This view simplifies things drastically and reveals the mistakes in making certain deductions because the political reason is the initial and prime mover and force behind these events. The religious reasons followed later as a natural result and not an original component.

The same thing emerges from the confrontations and civil war in northern Ireland between the Catholics and Protestants. The roots of the problem are political more than religious, such as ethnic nationalism, autonomy, independence, as well as economic and social considerations, but not religious.

Esposito has objectively diagnosed the campaign for arousing fears from Islam among the public in the West. This campaign started directly after the collapse and absence of the Soviet enemy and the emergence of a wave to replace it with the Muslim enemy.

This is a policy governed by wider political reasons. The presence of an enemy for some societies such as the United States is in some ways an economic necessity because military industry prospered during the conflict with the Soviet enemy. One of the tools of this conflict was to inflame conflicts and civil wars in the Third World. This made these industries experience one of their most prosperous ages in production. In the years preceding the end of the Cold War in 1989, there were around 40 regional conflicts and civil wars taking place in Third World countries of which we had a very large share in Lebanon, Chad, the Iraqi-Iranian war, and the Gulf War.

The presence of an enemy is necessarily followed by mobilization, national motivation, supervision of defense budgets, production of weapons, and military intervention operations abroad. Currently, some of these are intervention in Somalia, and previously intervention in the defenseless areas of Iraq. Now, the ghost is hovering over Sudan.

In addition, the West, the United States in particular, know very well that terrorism is not Islam and thah the terrorists we are complaining about had some official and covert relations with the United States. These are facts proven through some U.S. documents such as the Central Intelligence Agency's cooperation circle in Afghanistan during the eighties with Hekmatyar and the group called the Afghan Arabs through funding and support. Information was also leaked about coordination in joint terrorist activities between the Abu-Nidal group and the Israeli intelligence, Mosad.

Therefore, the campaign that claims the Muslims are coming and that there is going to be a cultural clash and Islamic war against the West have their own political reasons. Terrorism is not characteristic of Islam, nor is it characteristic of the Muslims.

Libya

Al-Qadhdhafi on Lockerbie, Terror, al-Kikhya

NC1603202294 Cairo AL-MUSAWWAR in Arabic 11 Mar 94 pp 22, 23

[Report on interview by Libyan leader Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi to an "Egyptian media delegation" at al-Qadhdhafi's headquarters in al-'Aziziyah, near Tripoli, by Hilmi al-Namnam; date not given]

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] "Brother leader" is the name by which Colonel al-Qadhdhafi goes in Libya. You never hear his real name there, nor is he referred to as a head of state or any other official title, for that matter. You just see his picture and hear him referred to as the brother leader.

On the day following our arrival, the members of our Egyptian media delegation, had an appointment with the brother leader. We went to al-'Aziziyah, his official headquarters, a 10-minute drive from the capital. We entered a compound containing a number of small villas. Tanks, military vehicles, and armored vehicles lined the road to al-Qadhdhafi's tent.

Al-Qadhdhafi does not live in the tent, as we had imagined. He merely uses it as an office. The tent was furnished with a number of chairs and a desk with a telephone, a clock, and many copies of *The Green Book* on top. More copies of "The Green Book" and books written about *The Green Book* sat in bookcases about the tent.

The true al-Qadhdhafi is different from anything you may have read or heard. A minute after our arrival, he entered the tent with an escort of youths, all under 25. Only one girl, olive skinned, green-eyed, wearing jeans, was in the entourage.

When he talks, al-Qadhdhafi makes you feel that you are in the presence of a shrewd politician. A little while later, he changes into a rebel who wants to change everything and start all over. Sometimes he sounds like a young man, discontented and desperate. A bit later he is jovial, even clownish. In all events, you do not see him as a statesman. You almost ask yourself: How has this man stayed in power for a quarter of a century? A jumble of contrasting Islamic, nationalistic, socialist, and pan-Arab concepts race in his mind.

That morning, the Libyan press made a scathing attack on the Arab League, accusing it of complete impotence. Commentaries to this effect appeared on the front pages of three newspapers, all with similar headlines and phrasing.

Al-Qadhdhafi said that the Jamahiriyah's Unity Secretariat had verbally notified the League that it is thinking of presenting [to the People's Congresses] the issue of withdrawing from the League.

Al-Qadhdhafi said that there is no further justification for Libya's remaining in the League or for the League's very existence, saying that the Israeli enemy has become a strong candidate for membership in the Arab League.

Al-Qadhdhafi said: Qatar supplies Israel with natural gas. Muscat receives the Israeli foreign minister. Qatar is filing a complaint against Bahrain with the International Court of Justice. All this happens and the League is unable to do anything.

The Libyan leader added that he aims by this move to jolt the League into action and make it amend its charter. He said: The Warsaw Pact has been dissolved and so has the Soviet Union. Soon, God willing, NATO will be dissolved. Meanwhile, the Arab League has not changed.

I pointed out to Col. al-Qadhdhafi that his move comes at a moment he knows full well is inappropriate for amending the League's charter and therefore may weaken the Arabs and divide them further. He said: "By God, if no change is possible, let the entire Arab League lay in ruins. Let us abrogate Arab borders, open them up."

Al-Qadhdhafi said that he personally appreciates the efforts of Arab League Secretary General Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid, but the lack of cooperation on the part of Arab rulers renders these efforts futile.

The second urgent topic raised at this meeting was the Libyan-Western crisis over the Lockerbie affair. In this regard, Al-Qadhdhafi praised Egypt's efforts and President Mubarak's diplomacy and repeated exchanges with the United States, the United Kingdom, and France. He added: Despite Egypt's efforts, they have remained intransigent. They do not think much of the Arabs. We do not "impress" them.

I asked him how far could the confrontation between Libya and the West go, considering Western insistence on the handing over of the two Libyan citizens? He said: We no longer have anything to give. We have our backs to the wall, and we are not afraid of anything. We have stopped importing goods and spare parts from the West. Even France, in solidarity with the United States and Britain, has refused to work out a solution. If the Arabs had broken off negotiations with Israel, the United States, which supports Israel, would have resolved the problem with Libya. But the Arabs failed to do so.

Nonetheless, there is nothing that we fear; we are prepared to resist. I'll bet you have seen the armed people "and they are ready to bring the temple down on both themselves and their enemies." [reference to Biblical story of Samson]

Asked about the acts of terrorism in Egypt and Algeria, al-Qadhdhafi said: It is known that the leaders of terrorism and the new atheistic movements live in Washington, Bonn, London, and Paris. From there they send instructions to carry out of acts of sabotage inside Egypt

and Algeria. This is all a part of a Western-crusader-Zionist conspiracy against the Arabs and Muslims. Their principal objective is to destroy Egypt, because they know well the importance of Egypt's weight and role, and that by sabotaging it they would cripple the Arab world. They are trying to stunt and balkanize Egypt. All those are Zionist objectives and the new atheists are implementing these objectives.

They should not call themselves Islamic Jihad, because jihad stands for the liberation of Jerusalem or coming to join with Libya to liberate Ceuta and Melilla. Jihad does not mean killing innocent people in Egypt nor killing truthful journalists in Algeria. This is not Islam.

To a question about the fate of former Libyan Foreign Minister Mansur al-Kikhya, al-Qadhdhafi said: He is a Libyan citizen and we are concerned about him. It is not true that he was an opponent. He was a junior employee when the revolution broke out. He worked with me until he assumed the position of foreign minister. He then became Libya's representative to the human rights committees. He sent me a message with our friend 'Ashur Qarqum, saying that he would visit Libya. I told him that he is welcome, because he has been abroad for a long time. He was scheduled to visit the Jamahiriyah after his visit to Cairo. But I do not rule out the possibility that U.S. intelligence knew about it and kidnapped him.

He added: The CIA [preceding term in Roman script] is behind the whole thing and the U.S. President had nothing to do with it. Clinton is a good guy and he was against the Vietnam war. But the CIA is deceiving him; it made him support the bombardment of the Russian parliament building by tanks and strike Iraq. Al-Qadhdhafi said Clinton is a Democrat and they are our friends because, like them, we sympathize with the blacks. But the CIA is deceiving Clinton and has recruited agents to kidnap al-Kikhya.

When asked if he has evidence, he said: There is no evidence, but there is the CIA's black record. [passage omitted]

Yemen

Vice President Interviewed on Obstacles Facing Unity

NC1703083794 Cairo Voice of the Arabs in Arabic 0610 GMT 17 Mar 94

[Telephone interview with 'Ali Salim al-Bid, vice president and secretary general of the Yemeni Socialist Party, in Aden, by Fawzi al-Jundi, in Cairo, from the "Dialogue From Afar" program; recorded—date not given]

[Text] [Al-Jundi] 'Ali Salim al-Bid: The Voice of the Arabs is pleased to welcome you.

[Al-Bid] Thank you and greetings to you and the entire Arab world.

[Al-Jundi] Let us begin this dialogue with developments in Yemen. We will start with the ongoing efforts to contain the Yemeni crisis and consolidate Yemen's unity. You recently visited Egypt and several fraternal Arab states. President 'Ali Salih also came to Egypt. The Yemeni president and the vice president are constantly in touch with President Mubarak. Could you tell us about the effect of the current Egyptian efforts to contain the Yemeni crisis?

[Al-Bid] Our contacts with Egypt fall within the context of the historic ties linking the Egyptian and Yemeni people. It is no surprise that Egypt shows an interest in Arab affairs, particularly in Yemen. It has been Egypt's custom to stand with us in the most difficult circumstances. When we run into difficulties, the first one we turn to is Egypt and its great people. Our contacts with brother Husni Mubarak have been fruitful. There was interest in the issue and we exchanged views on the Yemeni, Arab, and Islamic issues. The current circumstances in Yemen, where the unity march is stumbling, naturally necessitate the holding of contacts with the Arab brothers, chief among them Arab Egypt, along with our brothers in Jordan, Oman, the Arab League, and all the people who love good. We believe the contacts are necessary because the issue of Yemen's unity deserves attention, since it is closely connected with our Arab system and our unionist and democratic goal, God willing.

[Al-Jundi] Following the signing of the Document of Pledge and Agreement in Amman a few weeks ago, there was a sense of optimism that the Yemeni crisis could be resolved. But the ceremony was followed by clashes between military units from the country's north and south. You returned to the commercial capital, Aden, and the crisis continued.

[Al-Bid] We believe the solution lies in the Document of Pledge and Agreement, which is a national document that gained national consensus and provided ways out of this crisis. Immediately after the document was signed, we should have started the implementation and executive measures. But there are people who do not want this. The events of 21 February, a few hours after the document was signed in Amman, and events of 26 and 27 February are the product of those who reject the document and the Arab consensus. These people do not want stability for Yemen or the region. But there is a popular, peaceful, and democratic movement that demands the implementation of this document. We will side with this movement and with the democratic and peaceful struggle to put the document into effect, God willing.

[Al-Jundi] Some officials in the Yemeni Socialist Party [YSP] have proposed a federation in Yemen, which prompted many observers to accuse the YSP of seeking secession and separation.

[Al-Bid] We hear many such remarks and rumors. In the circumstances and in view of the people's interest and haste, some like to make several statements. The drive for unity is stumbling mainly due to our failure to establish a state of unity, a state of law and order and institutions. There are numerous interpretations in this regard and they all seek a solution to the main topic, namely, the state of unity. The problem is not about unity, but about the state of the unity, the mechanism applied in this state, and the definition of the state. It is about whether it will be a simple or compound state and whether it will be a state that accommodates the changes created by unity, the democratic system, and the peaceful and democratic struggle and that makes room for competition and variation in views in several areas in Yemen. So this is the difficult situation we are trying to remedy. I believe the Document of Pledge and Agreement has touched on this issue. This document sought to build a modern state in Yemen. Thus, the discussion on the state of unity is a good thing and is needed, I believe. We must not hesitate to listen to every view. These views produced the document that we all signed, which dealt with the state of unity. It gives a new shape to the state of unity and represents a new social contract in the state of unity. So the faltering march of unity is due to the absence of the state of unity. We should not fear discussion of such topics; we should allow dialogue to take place and listen to all the views as long as the intention is to build the state of unity and find the mechanism that could make room for its progress.

[Al-Jundi] Is the situation after the signing of the Amman document much different from what it was before it was signed, at least practically speaking?

[Al-Bid] It is fraught with tension, which is what we expected, because there is a refusal to implement the document. We expected that some would be unable to honor the agreement, particularly with regard to the first clause, namely, the need to adopt measures against outlaws and the perpetrators of terrorism, bombings, assassinations, and every act that disturbs security and stability in Yemen. This clause is the stumbling bloc. Another clause is the need to provide security and constitutional guarantees for the implementation of the document. So this situation is the reason for the tension. Some people are reluctant to implement the agreement.

They do not want to be exposed to the public, whose opinion is natural, of course. I expect the dialogue committee, the public here, all the peaceloving people, and the majority of the people who are committed to the implementation of the document to proceed with it, God willing, and we will overcome the difficulties. Narrowing the alternatives for those who are tampering with the situation will place them in a position to accept the implementation of the document. We have no choice but to proceed with its implementation. The current circumstances are the result of the refusal by some people and commitment by others to implement the document. We welcome every effort at home and abroad and all the efforts exerted by the Arab brothers. I believe Yemen will be fine as long as there are people at home and abroad who take an interest in it and show concern for it. God willing, things will be fine.

[Al-Jundi] Thank you very much.

[Al-Bid] Thank you.

GPC Statement on YSP Military Movements

JN1603212194 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 2000 GMT 16 Mar 94

[Statement by an "official source" at the Standing Committee of the General People's Congress—date not given]

[Text] We, in the General People's Congress [GPC], and all the honest sons of our Yemeni people and all their good unionist nationalist forces, have believed that the final signing of the pledge and accord document in the Jordanian capital, Amman, on 10 Ramadan [20 February], marked an end to the crisis based on the text of the document, to the effect that the signing of the document means an end to the crisis. We have also believed that settling the crisis can only be achieved by turning a new leaf of national accord, forgetting the past along with all its negative points, and restoring cohesion to the Constitutional institutions in the capital of the state of unity in order to begin the implementation of the clause and provisions of the document in accordance with the timetable and the mechanisms of implementation included in the document.

Regrettably, as all the masses of our people know, we were surprised that our brothers in the leadership of the Yemeni Socialist Party [YSP], only few hours after the signing of the document, began to escalate the crisis, militarily, and politically. The military escalation was represented by suspect military moves by the members dominating the YSP leadership toward lofty Abyan Governorate without any justification. Citizens in Abyan were also attacked, particularly in Mudiyah, by the forces moved by the YSP from the Aden and Hadhramaut governorates to Abyan Governorate. The military attack was only stopped by sincere nationalist efforts that led to the joint military committee taking an action, in accordance with an authorization from the president, the GPC secretary general, and the vice president, which was embodied by supervising the return of all the military units to their positions which they were at before 19 August 1993. The military repercussions abated, and the military committee began the implementation of a great part of its agenda.

The political escalation was represented by the YSP leadership's refusal to return to Sanaa to assume their responsibilities in order to achieve the cohesion of the political leaderships with their various institutions. Instead of doing so, they began to carry out divisionist actions, to weaken the pledge and accord document, and to circumvent the dialogue committee by setting new impossible and unilateral conditions, demands, and concepts.

Today, we were all surprised by the YSP leaderships adopting a new serious course of escalating the crisis politically and militarily. The commander of the central axis in Shabwah, along with the YSP organization's first secretary, issued a warning to the brothers Colonel Dirhim 'Abduh Nu'man, Shabwah governor, and Colonel Ahmad 'Ali Muhsin, director of the Shabwah security department, to quickly leave their offices in the governorate and to return to Sanaa, considering this a party decision, or, otherwise, they shall be held responsible for rejecting this decision.

As the brother governor and the brother director of security represented the Constitutional institutions in the region and as decisions to appoint and relieve them are usually made by these institutions and not by the party, they rejected that threat-like warning. On Wednesday morning, the residents of the city of 'Ataq, the capital of the governorate, were surprised when they saw a column of tanks and armored vehicles of units commanded by the renegade and separatist forces in the YSP besiege the governor's office, the Security Directorate, and the entrances to the city with a group of hireling agents led by Ahmad Bin-Farid al-Suraymah. The siege was an attempt to put pressure on these officials.

While the GPC regrets annoying our people's sons, who are still enjoying the blessed 'Id al-Fitr holiday, with this disturbing news, it wants to put the people's masses and all its political forces in the picture of what is going on so that they can see by themselves the complicity of the YSP's separatist forces in carrying out the separatist plans.

The GPC leaders in Shabwah informed the Military Committee of this regrettable development and urged it to move quickly to lift the siege imposed on the city of 'Ataq, the governor's office, and the Security Directorate; to quickly withdraw the military units taking part in this escalation; and to punish those responsible for sending them. The GPC leadership in Shabwah also urged the Military Committee to withdraw the military

units that are still stationed in Shabwah to their original bases in Hadhramaut Governorate and al- Mahrah Governorate.

The responsible source added: Thus, it is clear that every time the crisis approached a detente, the YSP aggravated the situation. It has also become clear through the YSP's recent behavior that it is planning to get rid of officials who represent the Constitutional legitimacy in the eastern and southern governorates and to tighten its iron fist on these governorates, which have become a stumbling block in the face of its separatist plans.

We in the GPC condemn this behavior and urge the unionist leaders in the YSP to stop these practices, which harm the party in its capacity as a principal partner in the unity, as well as unity itself. We also warn the adventurous and influential leaders in the YSP against continuing their provocations and escalations, and we hold them fully responsible for the consequences of their separatist behaviors. We urge the masses that protest in the various governorates and subdistricts to denounce this new escalation by the YSP.

Sources Expect Cabinet Changes

94P50103A London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 11 Mar 94 p 1

[Report by 'Abd-al-'Aziz al-Sadiqi]

[Text] Abu Dhabi—In spite of the appointment of Ahmad Sa'id al-Badi, the UAE [United Arab Emirates] health minister, as acting oil minister, succeeding resigning Minister Yusuf Bin-'Umayr Bin-Yusuf, the councils and diwans in the UAE have not stopped whispering about who will occupy the vacant ministerial portfolio. In fact, the speculations have extended to a wide-ranging cabinet shuffle or comprehensive change in the composition of Vice President and Prime Minister Shaykh Maktum Bin-Rashid al-Maktum's government, which has lasted nearly four years.

With regard to the fact that some consider the appointment of al-Badi as acting oil minister to be an indication of the UAE leadership's tendency to reduce speculations about the identity of the next oil minister, some believe this appointment to be a temporary transition formula, while awaiting "the cooking up of the new ministerial meal," which will not stop at the doors of the Ministry of Oil, but will continue to include a comprehensive reshuffle in most of the current Council of Ministers. According to what some circles are repeating, the change may extend to the Presidency itself, and these circles say that it is likely that the current president, Shaykh Maktum Bin-Rashid al-Maktum, will vacate his post as vice president and ruler of the Emirate of Dubai.

If these rumors are true, the most likely candidate to succeed Shaykh Maktum in the post of president is Shaykh Hamdan Bin-Rashid al-Maktum, the current finance and industry minister and the second oldest brother after Shaykh Maktum Bin-Rashid al-Maktum. This formula has it that Shaykh Sultan Bin-Zayid Al Nuhayyan, the current deputy prime minister of the Council of Ministers, will retain his position in the new government, which tallies with a tradition of separating the two posts so that the one who leads the government is an official from the Emirate of Dubai when his deputy is from the Emirate of Abu Dhabi.

Informed sources have ruled out the possibility that some of the major portfolios will change, among them the defense portfolio held by Shaykh Muhammad Bin-Rashid al-Maktum and the higher education portfolio held by Shaykh Nuhayyan Bin-Mubarak Al Nuhayyan, as well as some others held by shaykhs like the Ministry of State for the Supreme Council's Affairs headed by Shaykh Muhammad Bin-Saqr al-Qasimi, the Planning Ministry headed by Shaykh Humayyid Bin-Rashid al-Mu'alla, and the Ministry of Youth and Sports headed by Shaykh Faysal al-Qasimi.

Expected changes are in the service ministries, where the sources expect Ahmad Sa'id al-Badi from the Health Ministry to transfer to the Oil Ministry, at which he is acting. It is expected that Ahmad Humayyid al-Tayir, minister of state for financial and industrial affairs, will become minister of finance and industry, succeeding Shaykh Hamdan Bin-Rashid al-Maktum if the latter is appointed president.

Among the ministries around which the rumors are circulating is the Foreign Ministry—occupied now by Rashid Bin-'Abdallah al-Nu'aymi—where some expect Shaykh Hamdan Bin-Zayid Al Nuhayyan to become minister in the place of his current post of minister of state for foreign affairs, a post which he has held for about four years.

'Aziz Holds 'Useful' Meeting With UNSC President

Comments on Talks

JN1603195794 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 1900 GMT 16 Mar 94

[Text] This morning, New York time, Deputy Prime Minister Tariq 'Aziz met with UN Security Council President Jean-Bernard Merimee, the French ambassador to the United Nations. After a one-hour and fifteen minutes meeting, Tariq 'Aziz said his meeting with the UN Security Council president was very positive, useful, and that it starts the consultations he will hold with UN Security Council members during his visit to the United Nations. The deputy prime minister told journalists that he handed the UN Security Council president a message signed by him.

Later tonight, Tariq 'Aziz will meet with British Ambassador David Hannay at the deputy prime minister's place of residence.

Meets, UK Ambassador

JN1603212894 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 2100 GMT 16 Mar 94

[Text] Deputy Prime Minister Triq 'Aziz met with British Ambassador Bavid Hannay at noon today, Wednesday [New York time].

Tariq 'Aziz briefed the British ambassador on Iraq's clear position on applying relevant Security Council resolutions and on the need for the Security Council to meet its obligations toward Iraq as stipulated in these resolutions.

The deputy prime minister will also meet with the ambassadors of Morocco, Djibouti, and Oman separately. The latter two are Security Council member states.

INA Notes French Officials' Remarks on Ekeus, Iraq

JN1603202894 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 1900 GMT 16 Mar 94

[Text] INA has learned that France wants to change Rolf Ekeus, chairman of the UN Special Commission. High-level diplomatic sources told INA that French Ambassador Jean-Bernard Merimee met with the nonaligned states' ambassadors at the UN Security Council yesterday afternoon and discussed with them the UN Security Council's relations with Iraq. He told the ambassadors: Yes, Ekeus is a gentle, diplomatic, and diligent person, but, frankly speaking, I say to you that Ekeus must be changed as the Special Commission chairman because his actions depend on one viewpoint, which is the U.S. viewpoint, without taking into consideration the viewpoints of the other states at the UN Security Council.

The INA correspondent has verified the French Ambassador's remarks from other diplomatic sources that took part in yesterday's meeting.

'Responsible' Sources Deny INA Report

JN1703081294 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0740 GMT 17 Mar 94

[Text] The United Nations, 17 Mar (INA)—Responsible diplomatic sources have denied the reports the IRAQI NEWS AGENCY carried, quoting UN sources, on the French position toward Ambassador Rolf Ekeus, chairman of the UN Special Commission.

These sources added that the statements attributed to the French ambassador that were made to the IRAQI NEWS AGENCY by the UN sources were not accurate. The reported statements are groundless, the sources noted.

Senior Opposition Figure Urges UN To Extend Sanctions

NC1703115494 Paris AFP in English 1132 GMT 17 Mar 94

[Text] Irbil, Iraq, March 17, (AFP)—A senior member of the Iraqi opposition urged the UN Security Council Thursday to extend the sanctions on Iraq, saying Baghdad was far from complying with UN resolutions for a lifting of the embargo.

Two UN ceasefire resolutions were adopted at the end of the Gulf war in February 1991, calling on Iraq to destroy its weapons of mass destruction and to allow UN aid organisations free access across the country.

General Secretary of the main Iraqi opposition alliance Iraqi National Congress (INC), Dr. Ahmad Shalabi, told AFP: "The Iraqi regime is every day further away from implementing resolution 688" on allowing UN organisations access to carry aid programmes.

Iraqi Deputy Prime Minister Tariq 'Aziz began a new effort Wednesday to persuade the United Nations to lift the oil embargo imposed after the 1990 invasion of Kuwait.

In talks with French Ambassador Jean-Bernard Merimee, this month's Security Council chairman, 'Aziz called for an end to the embargo on Iraq since his country had complied with UN resolutions on disarming.

Shalabi, speaking from his headquarters in Salah al-Din, said a proposed option to lift the embargo only in Kurdish-controlled northern Iraq would be "problematical."

He said any such proposal would "raise strong opposition from Turkey's side" because of Ankara's continuing conflict with Kurds living in southeast Turkey.

He added that Turkey was the base for the UN operation Provide Comfort set up at the end of the Gulf war in February 1991 to provide allied air cover for the Kurds in northern Iraq.

Kurdish leaders meanwhile said it would be a positive step if the UN lifted sanctions on northern Iraq.

The Security Council is expected to decide Thursday or Friday to keep the sanctions locked on Iraq, due to its view that Baghdad has not met all council resolution requirements, diplomats said.

Still a majority of the council's 15 members including France, China and Russia have asked that the council acknowledge Iraqi progress on disarmament, western diplomats said.

Paper Condemns UN 'Submission,' Calls for 'New Approach'

JN1703110394 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0720 GMT 17 Mar 94

[Text] Baghdad, 17 Mar (INA)—The newspaper AL-QADISIYAH maintains that the game of deception and farces spearheaded by the U.S. Administration to exterminate nations through killing, starvation, and humiliation—means that have brought about the subjugation of the international bodies that are supposed to uphold law, values, and norms—must be halted.

In an article today, the paper adds: The world community has realized that the malicious colonialist tactics are part of an endless game, and that the only thing that can stop this game is the determination of peoples who choose their own way to ensure their own survival—not just their physical survival, but the survival that epitomizes loftiness, dignity, and continued defiance.

The paper notes Iraq's declared position on the need to halt the farces being led by the U.S. Administration to exterminate peoples, saying that international organizations must halt their evil approach, shoulder their responsibilities humanely, and refrain from submission. These organizations, the paper adds, must honor the actual texts that grant peoples the right to live in peace and dignity, and safeguard their sovereignty. These texts also stipulate that peoples' investments and rights must be guaranteed so that their future generations may survive and lead a free and decent life.

The paper adds: Given these ethical and reasonable tenets agreed on by world peoples and enshrined in international laws and rules of conduct, the UN Security Council [UNSC] and the United Nations do not have any excuse for the perpetuation of the embargo against Iraq, particularly since Iraq has underscored its commitment to these laws. The UNSC does not have any excuse for bending and yielding before the U.S. whip.

AL-QADISIYAH goes on to say: The unfair embargo resolution, the epitome of falsehood and deception that flouts man's dignity, is no longer acceptable to conscientious people.

The paper concludes by saying that the statements made by His Excellency President Saddam Husayn regarding the pursuit of a new approach to ensure our own salvation as we deem fit reflect the only option we have left. This option is the option of faith that will lead to victory, the paper maintains.

BABIL: 'Liar' Clinton Executing 'Peasant' Policy

JN1603173994 Baghdad BABIL in Arabic 6 Mar 94 p 1

[Article by Salah al-Mukhtar: "Iraq Is Here To Stay"]

[Text] European thinkers were not wrong in describing the United States as "an extension of the European countryside." In fact, post-World War II events, especially following the Communist landslides, have established that U.S. decisionmakers think with the mentality of a European peasant who has migrated to a very modern city!

This U.S. resemblance is not meant to refer to the positive, but rather the negative aspects of rural life, namely, backwardness, shallowness, and naiveness in thinking and making decisions. Events of the last half a century confirm that U.S. foreign policy has been a mixture of excessive barbarity and selfishness, miscalculation, shortsightedness, impetuousity, and superficiality in thinking and tackling events, contrary to the European mentality, whose maturity and cunning is exemplified by British policy.

Today, U.S. politicians have proved to be no more than European peasants in control of a high-tech civilization. So as soon as their rival collpased, they danced joyfully and began disgorging their evil intentions and criminal plans against all of mankind, including their own friends. Perhaps, the U.S. attitude toward the blockade on Iraq is the worst stupidity of this European peasant, who knows nothing, and so drowns in his own ignorance. When he is slapped in the face and made to wake up from his stupor and come back to his senses, he becomes stubborn again and pursues his own stupidities until his head collides with a solid wall and bleeds, then he yells and runs away!

The United States fled from Indochina in shame, despite all its victory promises and barbarity. It was defeated in Lebanon by the blowing up of the Marines headquarters, despite all Reagan's fiery words. The biggest shame was its defeat before Iraq when it failed to block Iraq's policy, course, and leadership, despite all the military buildup. As for its defeat in Somalia, it was proof of the United States' vulnerability and failure to honor its promises.

We tell waverer and liar Clinton: Wake up, the blockade is being eroded, even on the official level in the world. If you do not save the situation and end this blockade, the

news will come as a painful slap in the face to tell you that Iraq's will power is stronger and that Saddam Husayn is here to stay.

Columnist: 'Ignorance' Propelling U.S. Embargo Policy

JN1603180094 Baghdad AL-THAWRAH in Arabic 6 Mar 94 p 2

["Standpoint" column: "Clinton, Ignorance, and Zionist Motives" by 'Isa Isma'il al-'Abbadi]

[Text] The U.S. Administration is using the concepts of democracy and human rights in a manner that evokes a contempt and disdain for all the peoples and nations of the world.

These concepts, which are presumed to be humane, are being used as a political card to harm peoples' interests and influence their independent political decisions and options.

U.S. concepts of human rights and national security seem to overlook the fact that other world nations also have human rights and national security.

Since democracy is based on dialogue, how can anyone be democratic and talk about democracy when he rejects the principle of dialogue and wields the big stick against anyone with a different opinion.?

In his periodic report to Congress, U.S. President Clinton, as misguided by his Zionist advisers, spoke about what he termed Iraq's sponsorship of terrorism and violation of human rights. He claimed that Iraqi policy is still based on threatening U.S. national security and foreign policy which, he says, calls upon the United States to continue imposing economic sanctions on Iraq.

President Clinton seems to purposely ignore the fact that there is a clear UN Resolution 687, which Washington forcibly obtained from the Security Council, that Iraq has fulfilled all its obligations under this resolution, and that it remains for the Security Council to immediately implement Clause 22 of this resolution by lifting the blockade on Iraq. This is an Iraqi right which the Council must recognize under existing international laws.

Therefore, Clinton's talk about additional conditions when the blockade is approaching another review in the Security Council this month is not finding receptive ears among most council member states, especially the permanent member states, whose positions have undergone a clear change after establishing that Iraq has indeed fulfilled its obligations under Resolution 687.

It is inconceivable for the U.S. President to adopt stands that show clear ignorance of the geopolitical facts of the Arab world, the nature of the firm political system in Iraq, and the Iraqi people's solidarity with their national leadership.

The U.S. President speaks about nonexistent, meaningless things which he wants to stick on Iraq. Clinton must understand, if he still does not, that talk about terrorism as far as Iraq is concerned is meaningless. Everyone knows that Iraq is far removed from terrorism, that terrorists are completely unknown to it, and that it is not involved in this game whose sides have become well known. The game of hostage taking and bargaining between the United States and the West on the one hand, and certain political sides in the Middle East on the other, serves as clear proof of the involvement of the United States, the West, and those sides in terrorism and Iraq's complete dissociation from it.

As for U.S. drum-beating on human rights whenever the blockade is approaching another review in the Security Council, it has become absolutely disgusting.

If a few days ago China has thrown the ball in the U.S. court by referring to the millions of destitute, hungry Americans who are without homes, we in Iraq are proud that even under the unfair blockade we share our livelihood with rare equality, especially with regard to the distribution of food among citizens, which UN agencies have recognized as very fair.

If Clinton's ignorant advisers think Iraq will change its skin and start begging at the doors of the imperialist embassies, as some traitors do, then they are grossly mistaken. The United States is called upon to follow an evenhanded policy toward Iraq and the Arab homeland. It is not in its interest to weaken Iraq as some Clinton advisers suggest. Iraq is an important factor for the region's development, progress, balance, and stability, just as it is an important factor for world peace and security. As for the blockade, it is bound to go, whether Clinton likes or not. So, we will wait and see.

Rabin Speaks at News Conference With Clinton

TA1603190394 Jerusalem Israel Television Channel 1 Network in Hebrew 1810 GMT 16 Mar 94

[News conference by U.S. President Bill Clinton and Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin with unidentified reporters at the White House; in English—live]

[Excerpts] [passage omitted] [Rabin] Mr. President, the vice president, secretary of state, dear friends. It was important and worthwhile to meet today with the President and his team to know and appreciate what we have known for a long time: The friendship and trust between our two countries are profound and are as good—if not better—than they have ever been. We could not ask for more. For this, Mr. President, please accept our gratitude. It is good to know that a great nation, blessed with values and democracy, stands with us for the greatest battle still to come—the battle for peace.

Mr. President, a few months ago I stood here with you and many others at an historic occasion. We arrived at the beginning of the end of the bloody struggle that has lasted for 100 years. It was clear from the beginning that in spite of the goodwill on all sides, it would be difficult to bridge in days or in months differences in positions, perceptions, points of view, and hatred that have devastated and grown over so many decades. But we shall overcome these difficulties and reach the day of peace. We shall remain determined in our goal.

In our talks today I told you, Mr. President, that in my view we were near the finish line of the talks with the Palestinians on the first stage of the Gaza-Jericho First. Some problems and details have yet to be solved. I am sure that we shall find the right solution once the negotiations are renewed. We will not let the extremists derail the peace process.

On behalf of the State of Israel, I condemn the terrible terms of the killing in Hebron. I repeated this today in our conversation. Since that time, the Government of Israel has taken tough measures that are unprecedented in Israel. We will implement them with determination.

But, Mr. President, we are also victims of terror—whether organized or spontaneous. Our women and children have lived in the shadow of terror for decades. Not a week passes that we don't have to bury our dead. And if only for this reason, we don't think it appropriate to raise new demands after every terrorist attack. Security is a two-way street. Real leadership must rise above the realities of the day, even if they are painful and bloody, in order to arrive at our strategic goal. Peace is not a tactical option but a strategic objective which takes precedence over everything else.

With you, Mr. President, I call on Chairman 'Arafat of the PLO to resume talks immediately and act like me: to fight terror as if there were no negotiations and conduct the negotiation as if there was no terror.

We have to complete the negotiations so that in the spring or early summer hundreds, thousands, tens of thousands of Palestinians in Gaza and Jericho will at last be able to conduct their own affairs. We don't seek to rule them any more.

Mr. President, there is no time to waste. We feel that the window of opportunity that opened after the Gulf War is narrower than we thought. Time is running out. Therefore, 1994 has to be the year of great decisions in the peace process. In this framework, we spoke of the options that can be presented to President al-Asad in order to achieve peace with Syria. I hope that President al-Asad will respond appropriately, and we shall be able to sign a peace treaty by the end of this year. President al-Asad said that Syria had made a strategic choice for peace with Israel. That was encouraging. Peace with Syria has always been our strategic choice. We recognize the importance of Syria to a comprehensive peace in the area. We are ready to negotiate peace with Syria that takes account of our mutual needs and interests. There must be give and take on both sides. We know that as we engage in serious and authoritative negotiations, the point will come where painful decisions will have to be made. The promise of peace and its genuine benefits for all Israelis justifies making such decisions vis-a-vis Syria. We will not compromise on our security, but we will stand ready to do what is required of us if the Syrians are ready to do what is required of them.

At the same time, we would like to promote and advance the negotiations with Jordan, as well as with Lebanon. We are hopeful that with them, too, treaties of peace can be achieved this year. All of us know that time for the Arab boycott of Israel—a remnant of a period of hate and rejection—should be lifted.

Mr. President, prime ministers of Israel had come in the past with impressive shopping lists. On my list today I have one item alone: the pursuit of peace. As Passover—our feast of freedom—is approaching, let me take the opportunity to remind all of us of the fate of the Israeli soldiers missing in action and prisoners of war. I would like to thank the President for the United States' support in this regard and express the hope that Passover will also be a time of redemption for them. Mr. President, thank you very much.

[Unidentified correspondent] Prime Minister, you said that security is a two-way street. What do you plan to do to wipe out the acknowledged double standard in the treatment of the Palestinians, and also, if you are willing to make peace with Syria, Lebanon, and Jordan, now why don't you make the quantum leap and go for permanent negotiations on peace with Palestinians, instead of the step-by-step, very slow struggle of the peace process that means more strife?

[Rabin] First, about the second question. You have to refer to the letter of invitation to the Madrid peace conference. This letter of invitation served as the basis agreed on by all the parties that were invited to the

Madrid peace conference and the negotiations that followed this conference. What was written there? That the purpose of the negotiations with the three neighboring Arab countries beyond Egypt would be to achieve peace treaties, and with the Palestinians to move by two phases. Phase number one: Something that was never offered to the Palestinians in the past, not by Jordan when Jordan was in occupation of the West Bank, not by Egypt when Egypt was in occupation of the Gaza Strip. We offered them self-rule, to run their own affairs, to have a Palestinian council, self-governing authority, as an interim agreement. What was agreed in signing between the PLO and us? In the Declaration of Principles [DOP] that was signed on the lawn of the White House we divided the phases by agreement to Gaza-Jericho First, then to create the overall arrangement, and not later than two years after the completion of the implementation of Gaza-Jericho First to start negotiating a permanent solution. I believe that sometimes what might look the shortest way is the longest and the one that will not lead to a change in the realities. Therefore, we are committed to the letter of invitation to the Madrid peace conference; we are committed to the Declaration of Principles that were signed here between the PLO and Israel; we are committed to the Cairo agreement that was reached between the PLO and Israel, and I believe, to be committed to agreements that were reached is a basic precondition for the efforts to reach more agreements in the past. [as heard]

Second, you talked about different situations. Let's face it, most of the terror attacks are aimed against Israelis. We, the Government of Israel, in accordance to the international law, are the sovereign to military government of the territories. It's our responsibility for the safety, the welfare of all the residents, Jews and Palestinians alike. This government, as a result of the terrible tragedy that took place in Hebron, has taken measures that are unprecedented in Israel vis-a-vis those who violate the law, but we are a lawful country. I can give you an example. I use my responsibility as a minister of defense: orders for administrative detention of two Israeli residents, not [from] the territories, but in accordance to our laws, they had to be approved by a president of a district court. I ordered administrative detention for three months. The president of the district court reduced it to six days. I cannot violate verdicts of the court. Whatever the government does comes under the supervision and decision of our courts. I believe that many people in Israel believe that [what] we have done almost encroaching the line of the law, but we are determined to do within the law whatever is needed to fight terrorist from whatever direction it will come.

[Unidentified Israeli reporter] The two most sensitive issues, Jerusalem and settlements, are now de facto on the table. Do you agree that they should wait until the final stage, or should you tackle them right now? I am asking both of you, Mr. President and Mr. Prime minister. [passage omitted]

[Rabin] My answer is basically simple. We signed here in Washington the Declaration of Principles. It is written very clearly there that issues that have to be settled once we'll negotiate a permanent solution will not be dealt with now, and it is written very clearly, as examples for this kind of issues: Jerusalem, settlements, borders, refugees, and others. Therefore, by agreement with the PLO, these issues will be dealt with when we'll negotiate a permanent solution. [passage omitted]

[Unidentified U.S. correspondent] I am wondering if you could describe what your view is of the concrete measures that you mentioned earlier on in your remarks that should be taken to keep peace in Israel, and whether or not you would support the PLO idea for a police force in Hebron? [passage omitted]

[Rabin] Allow me first to make it clear, in the agreement, once it will be reached and signed, there is a building [as heard]—in the past it was 8,000 to 9,000 men—the Palestinian police force in Gaza and Jericho. If by now agreement has been reached, by now there would have been 8,000-9,000 Palestinian policemen in Gaza and Jericho. The more negotiations are postponed, the longer it will take them to come. Second, even if there will be some Palestinian police, and there were in the past, at least 900 Palestinian police in the territories were Palestinian residents of the territories in Hebron and in Ramallah and in Nabulus. They resigned because of the intifada. As long as ours is the overall responsibility for the territories under the military government, using our Civil Administration, their presence will not relieve us from our overall responsibility. Therefore, we have to look at it in the context of what is our international and practical responsibility. We, as long as agreement will not be reached that will cover all these areas with the PLO, we will remain internationally responsible to the security of all those who reside there. If there will be or will not be part of any Palestinian police, they have to come under the control of the government there, and the government is the military government of Israel. Therefore, you can't have separate armed groups. There must be one chain of command of those who have to keep and maintain law and order. [passage omitted]

[Unidentified correspondent] Mr. President, do you think that Jews should exercise their right to reside in the middle of Arab cities, and Mr. Prime Minister, could you also respond to that?

[Rabin] What?

[Clinton] What was the question?

[Unidentified correspondent] Do you think, should Jews exercise their right to reside in the middle of Arab cities in the West Bank? Should they live in Hebron, for instance?

[Rabin] I don't understand the question.

[Unidentified correspondent] Well, there were ideas of evacuating Jews from the middle of Hebron, for instance.

[Rabin] Again, as part of the DOP that we signed with the PLO, it is said very clearly that the settlements remain there for the interim period. I am not saying it; it is written very clearly in the DOP. Therefore, since it was agreed, I don't see at this stage as a condition for anything even to discuss this issue. [sentence as heard]

[Unidentified correspondent] Mr. President, I wonder if you could tell us, and Mr. Prime Minister, the extent to which you have discussed the Jonathan Pollard case again, and how much, if at all, the Ames investigation has interfered with action on it that was presented as imminent several months ago? [passage omitted]

[Unidentified correspondent] Could the prime minister answer that?

[Rabin] In today's meeting, the issue was not brought up. Thank you.

Rabin Queried on Palestinian Police in Hebron

TA1703070494 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0505 GMT 17 Mar 94

[Interview with Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin by Arye Golan in Washington on 16 March—recorded]

[Text] [Golan] Mr. Prime Minister, do you agree to a Palestinian police force being deployed in Hebron if it serves under the Israeli military government, and how many policemen are we talking about?

[Rabin] I would have been happy had the policemen who served within the framework of the Israel Police right up to the intifadah returned to their posts. I regretted their resignations at the time and I would be happy if they returned, but under the clear understanding that overall responsibility for security in Judaea, Samaria, and the Gaza Strip—as long as we have not reached and implemented the Gaza-Jericho agreement—lies with the State of Israel via the military government and the Civil Administration. We wanted the policemen to remain, but they decided otherwise. I would be happy if they returned to their posts, but we must realize that they will be subservient to Israel's authority.

[Golan] Mr. Prime Minister, do President Clinton and Secretary of State Christopher believe that your proposal to recruit the Palestinian police in Hebron, as you have suggested, will suffice to return the PLO to the negotiating table?

[Rabin] I did not suggest anything, I told them that was the situation, just as I have been telling you. The resignation of the policemen was not what we wanted. In places where policemen showed a readiness to remain, we were pleased, and we welcome it now too.

[Golan] Following your Washington talks, how do you estimate the chances of renewing the talks in the near future, first with the PLO and then with the Arab states?

[Rabin] I very much hope and believe that the Palestinians must also have an interest in advancing the negotiations because without a joint interest we will not reach an agreement. Peace is not imposed. We do not impose anything on them and they cannot impose anything on us. The peace negotiations must be in the interest of all the involved sides. No side can dictate terms contrary to what has already been agreed because of some incident, no matter how tragic, such as the Cave of the Patriarchs massacre. We did not demand any changes in the agreement we reached with the Palestinians in the wake of terrorist activity by Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] or its likes against Israelis.

[Golan] How do you feel when demonstrators carry placards showing you wearing a kaffiyeh?

[Rabin] I am so used to it that it does not have any effect on me.

[Earlier in the newsreel, Golan quotes Rabin as calling the PLO demands to evacuate Hebron settlers and deploying an independent Palestinian police force or international force in the town "a nonstarter," which he rejected outright. Golan says Rabin told Israeli correspondents in Washington, that "it is unfeasible to have an armed police force in Hebron which is not subordinate to Israel." Rabin said Israel is considering various proposals to alleviate the situation for the Palestinians without harming security. "Referring to the Syrian track, the prime minister said that in his talks with President Clinton, they discussed the components of peace—the scope of the withdrawal on the Golan Heights, security arrangements, the stages for implementing the agreement, and the substance of the peace—but there was no detailed discussion on the depth of the withdrawal." Rabin also raised with the President, the growing Russian involvement in the Middle East and "called for better coordination between the cosponsors of the peace process."

[Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew at 0600 GMT on 17 March quotes Likud Chairman Binyamin Netanyahu as rejecting the idea of deploying Palestinian policemen in Hebron.]

Palestinians, Settlers on Police Force

TA1703073794 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0700 GMT 17 Mar 94

[Text] Faruq Amin, commander of the Palestinian police force designated to operate in the territories, said that the decision to deploy Palestinian policemen in Hebron must have the PLO's agreement, and calls for a separate agreement on that with Israel.

This view is shared by (Umayah) Tahbub, Hebron's former deputy police commander. Our correspondent Moti Amir notes that the two served in the Israel Police

in the territories and resigned early in the intifadah, and now guard Faysal al-Husaynl. They said that the proposal has not yet reached the PLO leadership in Tunis and that the Palestinians will not agree to deploy the policemen if they remain under Israeli command.

[Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew at 0600 GMT on 17 March carries a live telephone interview with Ziyad Abu-Zayyad, a member of the Palestinian advisory council, by Itay Engel and Mikhal Gazit, on the same issue. Abu-Zayyad thinks "the proposal can serve as a basis for trying to reach a wording acceptable to both sides, but to deploy the Palestinian police force which existed prior to the intifadah and say that it means the Palestinians are responsible for their own defense will not work."]

Hebron's Jewish settlers are furious about the reports that the government will consider the deployment of Palestinian policemen in Hebron. They said such a move would lead to continued bloodshed in the area. A member of the Mate Binyamin Regional Council told our correspondent Gil Litman that the names of many officers and soldiers in the military reserve are listed in their offices and if Palestinian policemen come to Hebron they will be recruited to defend Hebron against these policemen.

Rabin, Pope Meet; 'Arafat Urged To Return to Talks

TA1703145194 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1330 GMT 17 Mar 94

[Report by Udi Segal]

[Text] The meeting between Prime Minister and the pope ended a short while ago. Prime Minister Rabin met privately with Pope John Paul II. The two men held a relatively short 45-minute meeting. Rabin condemned the Hebron massacre and asked the pope to use his religious and moral authority to call on all parties to resume the negotiations. The pope, for his part, said that he hoped for peace in the Middle East before the year 2000. The pope briefed Rabin on his plans to visit Lebanon. As for the possibility of coming to Israel, the pope said that he looked forward to visiting Jerusalem, but did not mention any dates.

Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin presented the pope with an ancient vase, approximately 3,000 years old, and said that he hoped the pope would be able to preserve the vase for another 3,000 years.

Several minutes ago, we asked Prime Minister Rabin several questions pertaining to the political process. The prime minister replied that since he had just completed his visit to Washington, it was still too early to speculate on the chances for progress in the negotiations. As for the evacuation of the Jewish residents of Hebron, Rabin said: Although we will not reopen the Oslo and Cairo agreements we will definitely take more steps to guarantee the security of the Palestinians in the territories. The prime minister described the design of the Jewish settlement in Hebron as stupid.

[Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew at 1400 GMT on 17 March, in a report on Rabin's meeting with the pope, adds the following: "Mr. Rabin told the pope he is eagerly looking forward to his visit to Israel." "Our correspondent in Rome Yossi Bar reports that Mr. Rabin promised the pope to bring peace and prosperity to the Holy Land. Following the meeting Mr. Rabin said the pope can provide spiritual and religious help to facilitate the peace negotiations.

"The Vatican's envoy stated that the pope has called on Yasir 'Arafat to return to the peace negotiations with Israel. The envoy said that during his meeting with Yasir 'Arafat in Tunis he conveyed to him the pope's support for the rights of the Palestinians. The envoy—who serves as the Vatican's foreign minister—also stated that the Holy See is not mediating between the sides."]

Peres on Talks With Syria, Security in Hebron

TA1603174894 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 1600 GMT 16 Mar 94

[Text] Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres says Israel knows that negotiations with Syria are a top priority now, and it is ready for them. Speaking to foreign correspondents in Jerusalem, Peres said Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin would investigate ways of advancing peace talks with Damascus when he meets in Washington this evening with U.S. President Bill Clinton.

On talks with the PLO, Peres said Israel could not agree to Palestinian demands for the removal of Jewish settlers from Hebron. But, he added, Israel would take additional steps in Hebron to meet Palestinian security concerns. He did not elaborate.

Hebron Arab Leaders Fail To Appear at Commission

TA1603174594 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 1600 GMT 16 Mar 94

[Text] The state commission of inquiry into the Hebron massacre this afternoon heard testimonies from members of the General Security Services. The session was held behind closed doors.

This morning's session was cancelled, when members of the Islamic Trust, or Waqf, from Hebron failed to turn up. Waqf representatives said they would only testify before the Palestinian committees investigating the massacre or to an international inquiry. Mark Weiss reports:

[Begin recording] [Weiss] Five officials from the Hebron Islamic Trust, or Waqf, were summoned to appear before the commission of inquiry this morning, including the local Waqf head, Shaykh Salah al-Natshah, and the director of the Ibrahimi Mosque, Shaykh 'Atif Hammuri. The five didn't turn up, and this morning's session was cancelled.

Hasan Tahbub, the head of the Islamic High Committee that runs Islamic affairs in the West Bank, explains the boycott decision.

[Tahbub] In spite of our full respect for the individuals and the high-level personalities, we consider that it is not a neutral commission. And, we are asking for an international commission to inquire as a fact-finding commission.

[Weiss] A statement put out by the commission judges expressed regret over the boycott, stressing that the commission is trying to clarify the truth and wants to hear from anyone who can help to achieve this end. A similar statement was issued by the Justice Ministry, which stressed that it was a state inquiry and not a government commission, as the Palestinians claim.

The commission has the right to summon the Waqf officials a second time, although such a move is unlikely. A second alternative is to use statements given by Waqf officials when the commission visited Hebron last week. [end recording]

Soldiers Tell Commission Goldstein Not Alone

NC1703125594 Paris AFP in English 1228 GMT 17 Mar 94

[Text] Jerusalem, March 17 (AFP)—The Jewish gunman who massacred 30 Palestinians in a Hebron mosque was with another armed settler, two soldiers told the inquiry into the February 25 slaughter.

"I saw Barukh Goldstein arrive armed with an M-16 and his pistol," said Sergeant Kobi Yosef who was on guard duty at the entrance to the Tomb of the Patriarchs.

"Then another settler, who I didn't know, arrived armed with a short-barrelled Galil rifle."

An army ballistics experts said that all the Palestinians casualties had been hit by shots from a short-barrelled Galil, an Israeli-made assault rifle capable of firing up to 750 bullets a minute.

Goldstein was beaten to death by Palestinians in the mosque.

IDF Kills 2 'Terrorists;' Settler Arrested

TA1703060794 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 0500 GMT 17 Mar 94

[Text] In Khan Yunus this morning, two terrorists were killed and an IDF [Israel Defense Forces] officer was lightly wounded in clashes. The attack occurred when the terrorists opened fire with automatic weapons on an IDF patrol. Soldiers returned the fire, killing the two terrorists. One of those killed has been identified as a wanted member of Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] who is suspected of carrying out attacks against security forces and residents in the Gaza Strip. The area has been closed and an IDF investigation is under way.

Yesterday, security forces arrested five wanted members of the PLO's Fatah. In clashes in the territories yesterday, one Palestinian was killed and 37 wounded.

Meanwhile, a Jewish settler from Kiryat Arba was arrested last night after opening fire and overturning stalls at a junction outside Hebron. He opened fire after coming under a hail of stones. Several hours later, two more Jewish settlers opened fire in the same area after being stoned.

New IDF Outpost in Qiryat Arba'; 13 Wounded in Strip

TA1603181894 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1500 GMT 16 Mar 94

[Text] Thirteen local residents were wounded as soldiers fired on rioters in Jabaliyah in the Gaza Strip. In Jenin, a Molotov cocktail was hurled at a Border Police patrol. Our correspondent Moti Amir reports that the policemen gave chase and detained the thrower, who had another Molotov cocktail in his possession.

[Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew at 1500 GMT on 16 March adds: "Palestinian students in Judaea, Samaria, and Gaza today went back to school, after an extended interval which started after the Hebron massacre. In Hebron, students were prevented from going back to school by the ongoing curfew."

[The report further states that "a young Arab woman armed with a knife today attempted to stab soldiers near the Ramallah Police building. One of the soldiers fired at the assailant's feet. She was wounded and taken in for questioning."]

The IDF [Israel Defense Forces] has started building an outpost in Qiryat Arba' designed to enhance settlers' security. The outpost will be situated on the Qiryat Arba' municipal land between Qiryat Arba' and the Giv'at Haharsina neighborhood. Our correspondent notes that the construction of the outpost is being done in concert and coordination with Qiryat Arba' leaders.

IDF Completes Evacuation of First Base in Gaza

TA1703092794 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 17 Mar 94 p 3

[Report by Dawid Regev and military correspondent Arye Kiesel]

[Excerpts] For the first time in the Gaza Strip—and for the first time since the signing of the Israeli-PLO Declaration of Principles—the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] yesterday evacuated a whole military base from Gaza's Rimal neighborhood. The vacated area went back to the residents of the neighborhood. Confirming the report, official military sources noted that the evacuation came as part of the redeployment of troops in the Gaza Strip. [passage omitted]

Military correspondent Arye Kiesel adds: The evacuation of the base yesterday came after Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin gave his consent to begin a real evacuation from the Gaza Strip. A senior military source in the Southern Command said yesterday: "We are done with 'thinning out the fat' from the Gaza Strip. The work was done in accordance with the operational order concerning a redeployment in the Gaza Strip and Jericho, and regardless of the massacre in Hebron."

Defense establishment sources voiced their assessment yesterday that the prime minister had given his consent for two reasons: First, as a public gesture to the inhabitants of the Gaza Strip and Fatah members there; second, to enable the IDF to carry out a rapid evacuation in the event that the peace talks resume and an agreement is reached on the beginning of the evacuation. [passage omitted]

Source on Fatah Delegation's Visit to Knesset

NC1503221394 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2130 GMT 15 Mar 94

[Text] Cairo, 15 Mar (MENA)—An official Palestinian source said tonight that the Fatah delegation that visited the Israeli Knesset today consisted of Arabs from inside the occupied territories and was led by lawyer Ziyyad Abu-Zayyad.

The source said the delegation had a dialogue with an Israeli Labor Party delegation led by Ya'el Dayan, the party's official spokesman, with a view to ending the current crisis faced by the peace negotiations.

The source said that members of the Palestinian delegation stressed that peace and settlements do not go together, and Israel must realize that the PLO postponed the peace talks because of the al-Ibrahimi Mosque massacre.

The Israeli Labor Party, led by Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin, had invited the Palestinian delegation to visit the Knesset.

Editorial Views Clinton Remarks on Jerusalem

TA1603165994 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 15 Mar 94 p 2

[Editorial: "Jerusalem"]

[Text] President Clinton's remarks about Jerusalem are particularly noteworthy, although they would have sounded better had they not been said in the context of the UN Security Council resolution that is expected to mention East Jerusalem as occupied territory. We have to wait and see if and how the President's commitment to a united Jerusalem as the capital of Israel is translated into the vote of his UN delegation.

And, lest we forget the forum in which the remarks were made: The leaders of the Jewish community in the United States—the same people whose lobbying and donations we so much like to dismiss—are the ones who heard from the President his renewed commitment to the issue of Jerusalem.

Muslim Brotherhood Condemns President Clinton

JN1703090394 Amman AL-ASWAQ in Arabic 17 Mar 94 p 12

[Text] A statement issued by the Muslim Brotherhood has stated that the U.S. President's recent remarks on Jerusalem as the eternal capital of the Zionist entity show his continued support for the Zionist enemy's racist policy of settlements. These remarks also reaffirm the stand of the U.S. Administration at the Security Council and its obstruction of the issuing of a mere statement condemning the ugly massacre perpetrated by the Zionist occupation forces, which blessed the Zionist settler's killing of more than 40 worshipers and then themselves killed more than 50 more people.

The statement noted that the peoples of the Islamic world are very angry about the U.S. Administration's stand, which flouts the rights of Muslims in Palestine and holy Jerusalem. The statement said that the utter silence by the governments, kings, amirs, and presidents of the countries of the Islamic world has produced a bad and bitter response among the Arab and Islamic peoples. In its statement, the brotherhood demanded the Islamic nation condemn the U.S. stand on the Palestinian cause and show popular anger toward this stand, which is totally biased toward the Zionist enemy. The brotherhood said: We remind the U.S. Administration that its interests are linked to the peoples of the Islamic world, that it is impossible to continue the current situation, and that the clear neglect of the rights of Arabs and Muslims in Palestine, especially in holy Jerusalem, makes it obvious that the United States has lost its neutrality and the possibility for its mediation in solving the Palestinian issue. This is clearly evident in the current negotiations.

And God hath full power and control over his affairs; but most among mankind know it not. [Koranic verse]

Al-Hasan Returns From Croatia, Bosnia Visit

JN1703073694 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 2100 GMT 16 Mar 94

[Excerpt] Talal Sat'an al-Hasan, minister of state for foreign affairs, returned to Amman this evening after accompanying His Highness Crown Prince Hasan during his visit to Croatia and Bosnia.

The minister spoke about His Highness Crown Prince Hasan's visit and his meeting with Jordanian troops taking part in the UN peace-keeping forces stationed in Croatia and Bosnia. He said that the objective of this visit was to hold a series of meetings with Croatian and Bosnian leaders and to meet with the Jordanian officers, NCOs, and troops taking part in the peacekeeping forces in Croatia and Bosnia. The visit was also aimed at meeting with the commanders of the UN forces in the former Yugoslavia.

He said that this visit comes within the framework of supporting ongoing international peace efforts and the recent agreement reached between the Croatians and Bosnians in Vienna aimed at ending the conflict, achieving peace, and closing a chapter of history full of tribulations and sufferings.

Al-Hasan noted that the visit added a new dimension to the credibility of Jordan and its leader His Majesty King Husayn. The visit also highlighted the respect the leadership and people of these countries have for Jordan and its leader His Majesty King Husayn and his effective contribution in support of international efforts and the United Nations' role through the participation of Jordanian troops. Jordan has the second largest contingent, after France, of peace-keeping forces in the region. [passage omitted]

Qasim Denies Hizballah 'Took Control' of Ba'labaak

PM1603154294 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 16 Mar 94 p 2

[Interview with Hizballah Deputy Secretary General Shaykh Na'im Qasim by Muhammad Shuqayr in Beirut; date not given]

[Excerpts] [Shuqayr] There are reports that Hizballah took control of Ba'labakk throughout the demonstration [staged on international Jerusalem Day] in return for the internal security forces' withdrawal.

[Qasim] Jerusalem Day is a well-known annual day which we celebrate every year. Actually we staged a symbolic unarmed parade. It is untrue that there were no security forces there. There was a security cordon around Ba'labakk in cooperation with the security forces in anticipation of any emergency, especially after the talk of possible bombings or security infiltrations. The symbolic parade was clear to everyone, and it was unarmed. [passage omitted]

[Shuqayr] There are reports that Hizballah took the state's place and assumed the task of maintaining security in Ba'labakk.

[Qasim] You can ask internal security forces whether or not we prevented anyone, and whether or not they performed their duties. I can confirm that everything some media services said is untrue. And that some quarters tried to put the spotlight on us to conceal other quarters. These quarters were behind the release of some erroneous reports.

[Shuqayr] Are we to understand that the measures were taken in coordination with security forces?

[Qasim] Security forces are responsible for security, anyhow. [passage omitted]

[Shuqayr] It is said that Hizballah acted in Ba'labakk as though it is under the resistance's control.

[Qasim] There are no problems in Ba'labakk that require extraordinary measures. This is why matters were normal and will remain so. No comparison should be made between Ba'labakk, which is under state control, and other areas said to have a link with some of the bombings that have taken place. Matters are normal in Ba'labakk. As for the areas where there are bombings and dangers to citizens, it is natural to have precautionary measures to prevent them from happening. Such measures were taken in the al-Ghubayrah area when an explosive charge was discovered in a school two days ago, and in other areas as well.

In principle, there is no need to take extraordinary measures except in the areas that need it. As for whether the measures were fair or exaggerated, this requires a discussion of the details and the circumstances. It is not true at all that we acted as an authority in Ba'labakk. We do not take any measures that should be taken by the state. Our fight is limited to the South and western al-Biqa' against the Israeli enemy. But to have discipline in Ba'labakk as a result of Hizballah's extensive popular presence is a positive factor which spares the competent agencies extraordinary measures. [passage omitted]

[Shuqayr] Some people say that Lebanese Forces leader Samir Ja'ja' was cornered and the demonstration came to rescue him.

[Qasim] Jerusalem Day is marked annually, and the parade was not armed. Anyone who wants to look for excuses to conceal matters or justify something can easily discover or justify anything he wants. If there had been no Jerusalem Day, the talk would have been about suppression of freedoms, sectarian imbalance, and other matters. [passage omitted]

Security Directorate Issues Statement on Explosives

NC1603174494 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1630 GMT 16 Mar 94

[Text] Unverified reports today about the defusing of explosive devices in certain quarters aroused panic among the citizens. To clarify the truth, the Internal Security Forces General Directorate issued the following statement:

Investigations into the discovery of a 60-mm mortar shell in the playground of the Assiriac al-Taraqqi School in Burj Hammud, al-Nab'ah, discovered that the shell was not primed for detonation.

Regarding the shell found in the 'Abd-al-Qadir Lecee School in the patriarchate locality, the statement said that a rocket-propelled grenade round was found on the roof of the school's laboratory. A military expert removed it and determined that it was an old remnant of the war.

India

Spokesman Says Rumors About President's Health 'Baseless'

BK1703104594 Delhi ISI Diplomatic Information Service in English 1014 GMT 17 Mar 94

[Text] A Rashtrapati Bhavan [President House] spokesman described as baseless rumors about the health of President Dr. Shankar Dayal Sharma. The president was hale and hearty and attended all his engagements scheduled on 16 March.

'Concern' Expressed Over Pakistani Receipt of U.S. Weapons

BK1703055494 Delhi Doordarshan Television Network in English 1630 GMT 16 Mar 94

[Text] India has conveyed to the United States serious concern over the transfer of sophisticated weapons to Pakistan, as this would affect the security environment. The minister of state for external affairs, Mr. R.L. Bhatia, informed the Rajya Sabha today during question hour that the government's concern has been conveyed through various channels to the Clinton administration. He said defense contacts between India and the U.S., including high-level visits and information exchanges, were conducted on a regular basis with a view to enhancing understanding of India's position and concern.

Mr. Bhatia said no date has been fixed for Prime Minister Mr. Narasimha Rao's visit to Washington.

Iran

Spokesman Expresses 'Profound Dismay' Over Saudi Remarks

LD1603200594 Tehran IRIB Television Second Program Network in Persian 1910 GMT 16 Mar 94

[Text] Mr. Mohammadi, spokesman of our country's Foreign Ministry, has expressed profound dismay about remarks made by an official of the Saudi Arabian Government, adding that the official's remarks were hypocritical and in contravention of Islamic customs.

Mr. Mohammadi has stressed: The Islamic Republic of Iran is cohesively supporting the expansion of good relations and peaceful coexistence with Islamic countries such as Saudi Arabia. However, this trend cannot be one-sided. What must be viewed as a reality is the presence of contradictions and ambiguities in the behavior of the Saudi statesmen; a behaviour for which one cannot find any justification except the intervention of the foreigners.

The Islamic Reublic of Iran fully supports the implementation of the agreement between the foreign ministers of both countries reached in Oman after the conclusion of the 17th session of the meeting between the Islamic countries' foreign ministers. On the basis of the same agreement, the Islamic Republic of Iran has proposed negotiations between high-ranking delegations from both countries, with the aim of making the implementation of the agreement possible during this year's Hajj. So far, however, Iran has unfortunately faced contradictory postures and procrastinations from the other side. This constitutes a fact which is denied in the remarks made by the Saudi official.

Hashemi-Rafsanjani Opens Afghan Ulema Assembly

LD1603222294 Tehran IRNA in English 2134 GMT 16 Mar 94

[Text] Mashhad (Khorasan), March 16, (IRNA)—The second assembly of Afghan Shi'ite and Sunni ulema was inaugurated here today with a message from President Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani.

The four-day gathering is being attended by 400 Afghan and Iranian ulema, and political, cultural, and educational figures to discuss the role of the role in settling the present crisis and coming up with practical solutions to stablize the Islamic government and preserve national unity in Afghansitan.

President Rafsanjani in his message said Islam and high prestige the ulema enjoy in Afghanistan has created positive ground for ideological movements.

He said unfortunately internecine clashes and losses inflicted on Afghanistan as a result of this latest round of bloodshed, have marred the brilliant record of the struggle for liberation of the Afghan people.

Hojatoleslam Rafsanjani's message said that orphans and mothers who sacrificed their beloved children for the sake of Islam have pinned their hopes on ulema and mojahedin leaders to rid the country of war, bloodshed and disorder and to form an independent, broad based Islamic government to protect the rights of all Afghan people.

He voiced the Islamic Republic of Iran's support for islamic movements in Afghanistan and said Tehran is ready to do its utmost to assist the country in its reconstruction efforts.

U.S. Official Cited on Desire To Control Exports to Iran

LD1603135694 Tehran IRNA in English 1328 GMT 16 Mar 94

[Text] Vienna, March 16, IRNA—North Korea's ballistic missile program is becoming "more ambitious" and U.S. officials are concerned not only about the nation's weapons programs but also its export plans, says Ashton Carter, assistant secretary of defence for nuclear security and counter-proliferation. According to U.S. Embassy Information Service here Wednesday, at a

meeting in Washington convened for specialists on non-proliferation issues, Carter said that the United States, would like to control the export of "everything" to Iran and Iraq.

Explaining the Clinton Adminstration's Counter-Proliferation Initiative (CPI), he noted that Defence Secretary Perry and Central Intelligence Agency Director Woolsey will announce soon the new position of a deputy director for military support at the CIA's Counter-Proliferation Centre.

In the past, he explained, too much of Pentagon's counter-proliferation focus had been on characterizing and cataloguing individual nation's weapons program. In the future, the official suggested, the focus will be on what actions to take after certain countries acquire weapons of mass destruction.

Paper Views Prospects for Iran-PRC Relations

NC1603212694 Tehran SALAM in Persian 5 Mar 94 p 12

[Commentary by M. Paye'dar: "Beijing-Tehran: The Need for Cooperation"]

[Excerpts] PRC Foreign Minister Qian Qichen, who is also the deputy prime minister, arrived in Tehran on an official visit yesterday. Qian Qichen, who is the second in command in the massive political apparatus of the PRC after Jiang Zemin, was quoted as saying on the eve of his visit that Iran is the most important country in West Asia, and in particular, in the Persian Gulf region.

He said: The PRC believes that Iran can play an immensely important role in the preservation of peace and stability in the Persian Gulf region. Qian Qichen cited the volume of trade between the two countries as $710 million in 1993 and added that this is the greatest trade volume between Iran and the PRC in the history their relations. Beijing is quite satisfied with this trend of expansion.

Commenting on the critical situation in the region, the PRC foreign minister said: Reports indicate that the sale of weapons to this region by some of the bigger countries in the aftermath of the Persian Gulf war are valued at billions of dollars. The PRC believes that the sale of arms to the region is certainly not in the interest of peace and stability. He said that he hoped that the countries exporting the weapons will adopt a policy of restraint in order to preserve the peace and stability in the region. [passage omitted]

The importance of PRC-Iran cooperation is obvious to anyone but it may be claimed that there has not been much attention to this matter. Even though in the past, there have been many visits and trips by numerous high-level officials, it appears that the level of bilateral relations has not changed qualitatively to attain what could be described as a new regional equilibrium.

Regardless of the reason for such a state of affairs, allowing it to continue in the face of the new international connotations of power and security that have emerged in the contemporary world does not seem logical. It is therefore not very effective to use the traditional lever of bilateral cooperation in all fields, and this in itself dictates the need for new parameters [preceding word in English] and a new atmosphere in their bilateral diplomacy.

Iran as well as the PRC enjoy special political importance within their respective geographical areas, even though this importance is not of uniform in regional and international affairs. However, both countries, in their own right influence that transcends their own political boundaries.

In any case, this importance has provided ample and logical reasons for Beijing and Tehran to deepen, expand, and revamp multilateral cooperation between them. This is significant for the following two reasons:

1. Beijing's expectations of Iran's role in the region and the direction that it envisages in this regard.

2. Iran's view of the PRC as a political power and a future economic power.

Regarding the first factor, as Qian Qichen stated, a country such as Iran cannot be ignored and the broadening of cooperation with Iran enjoys high priority. However, as for the areas of this cooperation, Qian Qichen implied the following:

1. Iran's importance lies in the Persian Gulf.

2. The expansion of economic cooperation and transfer of technical know how.

3. Military cooperation.

4. Beijing's willingness to cooperate with Tehran, especially in broadening the role of the Economic Cooperation Organization [ECO] and restructuring it.

Of course, the importance of Iran's role in the Persian Gulf is clear to all and Beijing is also completely aware that Iran's perception of the way the Persian Gulf and Gulf of Oman should be administered plays a fundamental role in promoting stability in the region.

In any case, the emergence of any kind of insecurity in the Persian Gulf—in view of the enormous investment by the PRC in the region, especially in the latter half of the 1980's—will be an immense source of concern for the PRC. The Persian Gulf war and the concomitant economic losses sustained by the PRC are still fresh in the minds of the PRC leaders. The huge sums (totally borne by the regional Arab countries) spent on beginning and ending the war and eliminating its consequences resulted in the suspension of all industrial and developmental projects in the region. The PRC also suffered massive losses, as the foreign demand for its goods was greatly reduced. The difference was that when the war ended—

in view of the nature of the forces embroiled in the war, and the importance that the Arab governments attach to Western countries—Beijing did not get a piece of the cake, or more accurately, they were not allowed to have any.

This is why the PRC is pursuing its objectives in a totally different way than the Arab governments and why it considers Iran's role extremely important in attaining its objectives. Stability is the "elixir of life" for both countries and this is the best reason for mutual cooperation. [passage omitted]

The current trend, which lacks the desirable trend and volume, cannot be defended. It appears that most of Iran's imports are manufactured goods, which is not in keeping with the economic development program of the government, while the PRC's imports from Iran mainly consist of crude oil. This is the situation even though the Chinese have valuable experience in the fields of power generation, nuclear reactors for civilian use, light industries that generate employment, geological prospecting, building refineries, textiles, shipbuilding, port construction, airplane manufacture, agriculture, engineering, and urban construction. This expertise can be transferred to Iran if we do some intensive planning in this regard.

As for cooperation in the military field, the experts should give their views. Here, only one point can be mentioned and that is: The Chinese have made immense advances in the manufacture of defensive weapons; and the not so complex technology of Chinese weapons (of course as compared to Western weapons) is capable of being absorbed into Iran's defense system.

On the subject of cooperation with the ECO, to which Qian Qichen alluded, the PRC sees it in the perspective of Iran and Pakistan, but Iran is more important. The situation was different prior to the dissolution of the Soviet Union, but now Iran has common borders with some Central Asian countries that are eager to broaden their relations with Iran. Therefore, the Chinese are watching the ECO closely, as it should naturally culminate in expanding Iran's role. In addition, the establishment of a unified economic front stretching from Turkey to the northern and western borders of the PRC has immense economic and political importance to that country. This is especially so because most of these countries view the PRC as an independent politico-economic power which—after the collapse of the Soviet Union—will have the last word in Asia.

However, Tehran's vantage point is totally different from that of Beijing and is extremely strategic. In view of the international military structure, the perception that the PRC is a durable regional and international politico-economic force is gaining ground among Iranian leaders. Facts and figures indicate that this perception is very realistic. Beijing is a relatively independent force on the international political and economic scene and its model of national expansion has drawn the attention of many Third World countries.

On the international diplomatic scene, the PRC is the sole Asian member of the Security Council and can be of great importance to many countries in view of the largely Western composition of the Security Council.

In the economic field, the PRC can finish numerous uncompleted projects in Iran and can also make new investments, especially in the field of energy production. In this regard there appears to be only one obstacle, to which the PRC leaders should find a solution.

Unfortunately, it appears that in regard to the peace trend in the Middle East, the PRC has not adopted an independent stand and has ignored the overall interests of the Arab countries and Muslims of the region for the sake of Israel. Even though the traitorous talks on the Gaza-Jericho accord were in progress, the PRC restored ties with Israel and high-level delegations have been exchanged between the two countries. The Iranian officials should discuss this matter in their talks with the PRC leaders and should ask the PRC to take a more logical stance toward this negative phenomenon, in view of the Zionists' evil deeds.

Kurdish Party Leader on Efforts To 'Overthrow' Regime

NC1603220394 Cairo AL-AHRAM in Arabic 12 Mar 94 p 5

[Interview with "Mr. Jalil," the secretary of the Democratic Party of Kordestan in Iran, by Mustafa 'Abdallah in Vienna; date not given]

[Text] ['Abdallah] I met him during a tour he was making of a number of European countries that took him to Britain, France, Sweden, Norway, Denmark, the Netherlands, and finally Austria, to explain the cause of the Iranian Kurdish people and inform the public about the aspects of their revolution. At the start of his interview he stated that their main goal is to overthrow the regime in Iran and establish a democratic regime in which human rights and the rights of national minorities will be respected. He added that the Democratic Party of Kordestan [DPK] represents 90 percent of the Kurdish people living in Iran.

What is the DPK's relationship with the Mujahedin-e Khalq in Iran?

[Jalil] By virtue of our common struggle against the present Iranian regime, we have strong ties with the forces that oppose this regime, including the Mujahedin-e Khalq movement, of course. Political cooperation is continuing. But regrettably there is no coordination in the field due to geographical conditions. But we are in the process of initiating such coordination.

['Abdallah] You said that you are working to overthrow the regime in Iran. Is there a specific plan for this?

[Jalil] After having failed in the past 15 years to convince the Iranian regime to grant our people their national

rights, we were forced to undertake military operations. We have dealt painful blows to the regime in many places, weakening their forces in these areas. By virtue of our indomitable struggle, we have turned Kordestan into an impregnable fortress for the Kurds.

Although there have been many victims, amounting to 60,000 civilians and about 6,000 military men, our morale and the morale of our Kurdish people is high. Our struggle has strengthened the struggle fronts in many areas in Iran.

['Abdallah] When do you expect your plan to overthrow the regime in Iran to succeed?

[Jalil] The Iranian regime is now closer to falling and is very weak. According to our study of the situation, the main problem lies in the absence of an organization that unites all the opposition forces to speed up the overthrow of the regime. But we are currently trying hard to establish a joint Kurdish organization and an Iranian organization of all the opposition forces to achieve our goal of weakening and overthrowing the present regime.

['Abdallah] Mr. Jalil, do you have any information about Iran's support for terrorism?

[Jalil] It is known that the present Iranian regime is a terrorist regime in all respects. It resorts to terrorist means to achieve its objectives. Among these means are physical liquidation of the opposition forces and leaders. This is in addition to exporting terrorism. We have so far noted more than 100 terrorist operations by the regime at home over a short period of time. In the past month alone, the regime carried out three terrorist operations against members of the Kurdish leadership, killing two of them in Kordestan and Iraq and the third in Turkey.

Pakistan

Paper Views U.S. Position in F-16 Deal

BK1703102094 Peshawar THE FRONTIER POST in English 17 Mar 94 p 10

[Editorial: "Need for Progress on the F-16 Deal"]

[Text] There seems to be a move on the part of the US administration to enable Pakistan to take delivery of the F-16 aircraft, apparently 38 in number, which it has already paid for with a sum of over $700 million. The hitch, so far, has been an overly broad application of the Pressler Amendment under which US military and economic assistance to Pakistan has been cut off since 1990 on the grounds that the US president has been unable to certify that Pakistan was not in possession of a nuclear device nor in the process of acquiring one. But the aircraft have been paid for out of Pakistan's own funds and the deal simply should not be subjected to restrictions under this amendment. However the Congress and, till fairly recently, the US administration appeared quite content to use this amendment in order to deny the aircraft to Pakistan and to increase pressure on it to roll back its nuclear programme. In the face of Pakistan's refusal to oblige, the US administration appears to be taking a different tack. It now seems to be inclined to convince the congress of the merits of allowing Pakistan to supplement its strength in conventional arms in order to provide it greater incentive for not undertaking a nuclear weapons programme. Clearly the latter issue pertains to the country's perceived security needs and it is for Pakistan to determine whether it should keep its options open in this context.

To the extent that the reported move by the US administration provides some hope that Pakistan will be able to get what it has paid for is an encouraging development. However, there are all kinds of lobbies within the US political and governmental circles that have been active in trying to block the move by whatever means necessary regardless of the merits of the case. Meanwhile India has also sought to influence the matter with its prime minister observing in this regard that if the aircraft were indeed to be delivered to Pakistan then his country will also be forced to review its defence requirements. Considering India's vast superiority in arms over Pakistan this is a completely untenable argument. In response to informal US proposals regarding nuclear non-proliferation and resumption of limited military and economic assistance reportedly received by the government Pakistan should make its position clear both in terms of its legitimate security requirements as well as the importance on the part of the US to meet its obligations under generally recognised principles governing transactions such as the F-16 deal. The prime minister's meeting with the U.S. ambassador on Sunday was probably meant to convey Pakistan's growing impatience on this issue to the United States government. The upcoming visit of the chief of the army staff to the US should also help clarify Pakistan's stand. If the US still appears prone to hedge on the matter then perhaps the government will have little choice but to continue to withhold further payments and take the matter to court in the United States as it is reportedly contemplating.

Paper Urges Examination of Foreign Policy

BK1503141694 Rawalpindi NAWA-I-WAQT in Urdu 13 Mar 94 p 4

[Editorial: "After Kashmir, the Pressler Amendment—That Fond Hope Also Dashed"]

[Text] The United States has excluded Pakistan and Afghanistan from the list of countries which will receive international development aid in 1995. Robin Raphel, the under secretary of state and chief of the Clinton administration's committee on South Asia and the Pacific, told the House of Representatives Foreign Affairs Committee that aid to Pakistan was suspended under the Pressler Amendment. The Pressler Amendment has been helpful in slowing down Pakistan's nuclear program. After assuming office, the present government gave the nation good news that it would not only bring Pakistan out of the isolation resulting from

the wrong policies of the previous government, but that it would also improve Pakistan-U.S. relations to such a level that it would lead to the annulment of the Pressler Amendment and resumption of U.S. aid to Pakistan. Stories about world support on the Kashmir issue and further revision in the Pressler Amendment by the United States, especially Pakistan's exclusion from it, could be heard in those days. But all the fond hopes are now evaporating one by one and it is becoming clear to the people that what they witnessed was a dream and what they heard was merely a story.

At first, the UN General Assembly was approached about the Kashmir issue and the government declared that once again they were raising the issue at the world body. A resolution was also presented about which the opposition claims that it was planned during the Nawaz Sharif government and it had also secured the support of most of the friendly countries as a result of lobbying by the previous government. But suddenly, the present government announced the withdrawal of the resolution and the people were told that it had been done due to the insistence of "friends" and their reported assurances. It was also said that those friends had assured that they would exert pressure on India and ensure that the Kashmir issue is resolved through negotiations. Naturally, the whole nation's attention was focused on the Pakistan-India talks in the first week of January. However, the talks remained unproductive and India not only repeated its old claim that Kashmir is an integral part of India, but also belied hopes of normalizing relations between the two countries by embarking on a major operation against Kashmiris in Sopor. The siege of the Hazratbal shrine also continued.

The government then adopted the policy of raising the Kashmir issue at the UN Human Rights Commission and the prime minister said that she would herself go and raise the issue at the UN body. Well, she did so and tried to convince the nation that India would face a defeat at the global forum and it would eventually lead to an end to Indian atrocities in occupied Kashmir and that India would be forced to resolve the Kashmir issue.

An impression was also created that the United States was backing the present government and it was putting pressure on India. In an attempt to satisfy the United States, the prime minister also announced that Pakistan does not help the Sikhs. Despite all this, the latest resolution was also withdrawn, thereby belying the government's claim that Pakistan is no longer an isolated country like before.

Whatever happened in Geneva is nothing but a clear manifestation of the failure of Pakistan's foreign policy. It has also been proven that not only did we fail to appease the United States, but we also deprived ourselves of the warm relationships we enjoyed with our traditional friends. India has now declared that it will not allow ambassadors of Islamic countries to visit Kashmir. The stand taken by the United States and European countries on this occasion is very obvious.

The Pressler Amendment is a discriminatory law against Pakistan as a result of which U.S. aid to Pakistan has remained suspended since 1990. The previous government paid no attention to improving relations with the United States or securing aid. The previous government, by launching the self-reliance program, created an impression that it did not need U.S. aid. However, the present government is quite active in this regard and it has been saying that restoration of warm relations with the United States will be its major and historic achievement. Propaganda was also launched about the withdrawal of the Pressler Amendment. But the sweet dream has now vanished. Because not only is the amendment still in place in its original form and aid to Pakistan for 1995 stopped, but the Clinton administration has also indirectly praised the amendment. Robin Raphel said that the amendment has helped bridle Pakistan's nuclear program. It seems that the talk of warmth in Pakistan-U.S. relations was only fiction and we as a nation were involved in self-deception in hoping that the new government and its leader are capable of taming the United States. Reports say that her proposed U.S. visit has also run into trouble and expectations from the United States are not likely to be fulfilled.

Given the situation, the government instead of keeping its eyes closed like an ostrich should pay attention to overhauling the country's foreign policy and make fresh initiatives for creating a consensus between the government and the opposition on major issues. It should also do away with mistakes which have been causing successive failures.

We have tried every means to appease the United States and put ourselves under its patronage only to find out that no encouraging response has been forthcoming from the other side. We are gradually losing the love and affection of our defendable friends due to our efforts to appease the United States. Our national dignity has also been injured due to our policy and it has also stalled our forward movement toward the goal of self-reliance. Therefore, instead of wasting any further time, the government should take the opposition along and devise a comprehensive strategy. It is not wise to keep trying that which has already been tried. No one was surprised at the U.S. behavior, but we are still being overwhelmed by absurd optimism, or at least pretending to be.